



No. 10.

MARCH, 1923.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000.

THRIFTLESSNESS.

BY "ECONOMIST."

THERE was once (as the story books say) a man who got married, and as he had no money, he borrowed a hundred pounds with which to furnish his house. It does not seem a public-school education to teach one that he was at once in debt for £100. According to the custom of this age, he naturally was expected to pay "interest," the rate of which was 5 per cent, or £5 a year.

Trade was not very good, and at the end of the first year he discovered that his wages had truly been sufficient for himself and his wife to live upon, but had not allowed him to save the £5 interest. What was to be done?

A way had to be found out of the difficulty, so they thought it over, and decided to sell some of the furniture— that which they could most spare. Now, buying furniture is one thing and selling it is another; the upshot of which was that £5 was obtained for what had originally cost £5.

The second year things were no better. The interest was not saved by the time it was due, and more furniture had to find a market to produce another £5.

It was easy while it lasted, if a trifle inconvenient. But the third year brought consternation, for the latter had been as hard to save as before, and a great deal of what remained in the way of furniture found its way to the broker's.

Now, you will observe that the man still owed £100, for which (unless he paid it back) he would have to pay £5 a year as long as he lived. Moreover, he had no goods to the value of his loan, no "assets," as the financiers say, so that he was in a sorry predicament!

Now, any business man will tell you that such a way of starting married life is worthy of the utmost condemnation, and was farious over the thriftlessness of the working classes.

THE GREAT EXAMPLE.

But the greatest example of this kind of thing either you or anybody else has ever heard of was not done by a working man, but by a Business Government, with all kinds of financial geniuses to advise it. This happened between 1919 and 1922, and here is the story of it.

During the recent war the Government borrowed money to buy all kinds of things for carrying on the war and a bewildering variety of goods, from sails to motor lorries, which should help to that end. After the armistice was signed the surplus stocks were sold by the Disposals Board—of course, at very great sacrifices. It was another example of the kind of thing that happened to the newly-married couple who bought furniture at the shop and sold it to the broker.

Naturally the Government doesn't make any very great noise about this, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a speech in August last, in answer to a question in Parliament. Putting those figures in their simplest form, we get the following interesting statement:—

PROCEEDS OF SALES OF SURPLUS STOCKS.

Year ending March 1921.....	£589,342,000
Year ending March 1922.....	£360,084,000
Year ending March 1923.....	£187,090,000

Total for three years, £1,137,416,000

It is true that some of these goods were sold to other Government Departments, but that does not affect the argument, since those other departments presumably needed the goods they bought, and would have to obtain them elsewhere if the surplus stocks had not been in existence.

The Chancellor further explained that the above sum included £45,000,000 paid

by Germany (towards the cost of the Army of Occupation. Making this correction, we have:—

Total as given above, . . . £1,137,416,000
Less amount received from Germany..... £45,000,000

Total proceeds of sales of stores for three years . . . £1,092,416,000

"THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR'S" WHO'S WHO SERIES.

NO. 1.—COUNCILLOR T. H. WATKINS.



COUNCILLOR T. H. WATKINS.

COUNCILLOR T. H. WATKINS is one of those practical persons who specializes in facts and figures rather than theories. A trade unionist of twenty years' standing, who has represented his fellow-workers as chairman of the Sheffield and Chesterfield District of the N.U.R., and in several other representative capacities, with ten years' service on the board of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society, he is pre-eminently fitted to represent that closely-coupled industrial area, Necessad Ward.

Already he has proved his worth on the City Council as a member of the District Committee, Estates Committee,

Parks Committee, and, what is most important of all, the Finance Committee. His passion for facts and figures serves the city to good advantage.

"Tom Watkins," as he is familiarly called, is not the type of person to move audiences emotionally. He does, however, get down to the facts of the situation, and is just the type of person needed to deal with civic affairs during this period of stress and distress. He is no demagogue, but a real practical man of affairs, with infinitely more influence in committee, where the real business is done, than any amount of oratorical ability would give him.

AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH ALL THIS MONEY?

One would, of course, expect that it had been used to pay off some of the money previously borrowed, which is the bulk of the National Debt. But observe the facts:—

On the first day of the three years referred to, the total debt was £7,487,050,442.

And on the last day of the three years it was £7,720,535,214.

Instead of reducing our National Debt in the period, we increased it by £239,484,772!

The next thing to notice is the amounts we paid for "interest and management" (the latter a negligible sum) on the debt for the same years, as follows:—

Year ending March 1921.....	£132,034,000
Year ending March 1922.....	£349,598,616
Year ending March 1923.....	£132,294,346

Total..... £1,013,926,962

Don't get weary of reading at this stage: the sting has yet to come. If we sold the furniture to pay the interest, and did what all financiers, business men, boards of guardians, and city councils (when a poor man does) do—by selling stores (bought with War Loans) for 1,002 millions we were able to pay interest to a total of 1,013 millions!

THE EMERY HORSE.

After the end of the third year the man who bought furniture with borrowed money had practically no furniture left, although he still owed the £100. And now the nation that bought war stores with borrowed money has no surplus left, or next to none, and what are we going to do about "interest" in future? We have noted like the dog that lived by eating his own tail—and the tail is gone!

Economy, spend less, said the present Government, and it knocked a shilling off the income tax. But even so much exacting economy cannot give us sufficient to do the trick. We can either have "a broader basis of taxation," which means putting taxes on things which we must buy, or—we can have a tax on personal fortunes. This latter we call a Capital Levy. It has difficulties. So had the war; so has excess profits duty; so has income tax. But the people who talk about its difficulties had better remember the difficulties of trade, of paying the rates, and especially of *lifesaving* to that million-and-a-half or thereabouts who are unemployed.

A little wisdom and a little less of the dog-the-tail-er attitude, a little co-operation, and a little less self-isolation from their fellow-men in matters relating to the nation's financial difficulties, would do the moneyed men a world of good in more ways than one. It would help towards a contented nation, it would give them the kind of self-discipline they are constantly recommending to the poor, it would help trade, and make in the direction of a better life for the generation that is now at school.

The same amount of tax and education could be spent on housing and education, for example, which would become assets of the whole people.

What about it?

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ALEXANDER WITH HIS CONSTITUENTS.

Mr. Alexander, M.P., visited Hillsborough on February 8th,
9th, and 10th, and was received everywhere with
acclamation.

Amongst the Congregationalists.

Mrs. ALEXANDER was invited to attend a Mock Cutlers' Feast at the Hillsborough Congregational Church, Carlton-road. The function was well conceived, and was of an exceedingly humorous character. Mr. Alexander found himself amongst such political opponents as Councillors Mrs. Willie Longden, Harold Jackson, O. C. Wilson, Mr. Bridgewater, Mr. Ernest Wilde (Arthur Neal's election agent), and a number of other prominent Hillsborough Liberals. It was obvious as soon as Mr. Alexander arrived that he had come to enjoy himself amongst them. He accepted the invitation as a real sport, and we must say his remarks were taken in the best possible good humour, and that our friends had laid themselves out to give him an enjoyable evening.

The toasts included "The Cutlers' Company," moved by Councillor O. C. Wilson, J.P., who amused the company by digging up ancient history showing the cost of early Cutlers' Feasts. "Lord Mayors and Corporation," proposed by Mr. T. C. Watson, who would persist in using the ambiguous term "corporation" in its music-hall sense—Councillor Jackson responded with a humorous speech. "Trade Unionism," proposed by Mr. J. Turner, and responded to by Mr. H. E. Bridgewater. The latter gentleman is a fine raconteur. His two stammering stories were rendered perfectly; he has just that quiet, hesitant method of delivery which is exceedingly effective in story-telling.

Mr. Alexander responded to the toast of "His Majesty's Government," moved by "Major Neverbend" (Mr. Ernest Wilde). "Coming events cast their shadows before them." He remembered a Mock Parliament at Twickenham, at which, by the way, Sir Wm. Jeayson and Mr. Saltsrival had both been members. Was it possible that his response on behalf of the Government was a precursor of the time when he should respond to a Cutlers' Toast on behalf of the British Labour Government? He hoped that when such time came, he would be a feast of cutlers, real cutlers, working cutlers, not master cutlers. He represented the benevolent Government. He could prove to them the benevolence of the present Government. The Rev. John G. Pearce used to say, "I have watched mothers and their children. They give their children what they like, give it them a little at a time, and give it them warm." Precisely the way the British Government treated its children. For Englishmen love a grievance. Years ago they had a grievance of gold in the pound income tax. With true maternal instinct the Government had increased that a little at a time. Today they were giving it them warm! He was pleased that the toast had been moved by such a fine militarist as "Major Neverbend." He wanted to be in this connection, that whatever he said of militarism, he claimed that there was no more loyal party in the State than the party to which he belonged. All charges of disloyalty were unfair. He was loyal to the best interests of the great mass of the people, which was the only real loyalty worth cultivating.

Mr. Alexander was afterwards called upon to respond to the toast of "The Guests and Friends." This time he spoke in more serious vein, at the assurance of receiving this invitation, as showing he represented not merely the Labour or the Co-operative Party, but all the people, irrespective of class or creed. He was a representative of Hillsborough, they would treat him as such, and bring to him any grievances and ask if him any service as the representative of the whole of the Hillsborough people.

With the Engineers.

The A.E.U. called a meeting in the Institute, Stanley-street, on the morning of Friday, February 9th, to consider the

position of those members who were through unemployment, unable to contribute to the National Health Insurance, and were in consequence thrown out of benefit. In addition to the A.E.U. officials, Councillor C. H. Wilson, M.P., Stanley Burgess, M.P., Tom Smith, M.P., and Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., were present. Mr. Alexander, after listening to the statement of the position by various members and by the A.E.U. officials, outlined the steps that had been taken by the Labour Party to get the Government to deal with this matter. He showed that, largely through the instrumentality of Sidney Webb, M.P., Mr. Bonar Law had set up an inter-departmental Committee to deal with the anomalies. The terms of reference were not exactly satisfactory, but he had no doubt that if they could collect concrete evidence upon which a memorandum could be prepared, good work could be done through this Committee. He asked, therefore, for the completion of figures showing (a) actuarial basis of the Health Insurance Scheme, (2) the State-administered section, (3) the section administered by approved societies. He also intimated that they must have definite suggestions to make if these anomalies were to be removed. He spoke very definitely against unemployment "insurance by industry." "The whole basis of any sound insurance scheme," said he, "is based on a sharing of responsibility with rich and poor industries alike. Furthermore, the whole matter is a national responsibility, and belongs to the State." Mr. Alexander answered a number of questions, and his practical, concrete, telling remarks were well received.

With the Railwaymen.

On Friday night, February 9th, Mr. Alexander addressed over 300 of his constituents in the Local Men's Institute, Farnborough-road, under the chairmanship of Councillor T. H. Watkins. He congratulated the local men on their initiative and co-operative spirit, as revealed by the splendid hall in which he was speaking. He drew the moral that all things are possible when men think and act co-operatively rather than individually. Afterwards he dealt with the foreign policy of the present Government, the unemployment problem, pension cases, and so on. He asked that they should not expect too much of the Labour Party; it was in the minority in the House. Several questions were asked and satisfactorily answered, Mr. Alexander having to hurry off to the Apple-street meeting.

At Apple Street.

The accommodation at Apple-street proved to be hardly adequate for the people anxious to hear their representative. He was greeted with a storm of applause, and was soon explaining the reason for the terrible plight that the workers found themselves in. After four years' talk of Lloyd George, the British Government was then standing aside whilst each Allied nation took separate occupation of the Ruhr was the strikingly dangerous proceeding so far as the peace of Europe was concerned. Still, he believed that it would be inadvisable for the British troops to be withdrawn from the Rhineland, as that would leave the Germans at the mercy of the French. He pointed out to him that the remedy was Occupation to be withdrawn, and the refusal of difference between the nations referred either to the League of Nations or to a conference or tribunal of neutral countries, otherwise we were in for trouble had affected the Lausanne Conference up in each other, and were the result of policies of Imperialism amongst the Allies as well as the Germans. He learned that Mr. Lloyd George had been

[Continued on next column.]

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[Continued from previous column.]

condemning the policy of the French in the Ruhr, but he maintained that Lloyd George was very largely responsible for the position, having made such false promises of reparations, "searching the pockets of the Germans for the utmost farthing," and so on, which had led the people to believe that a policy of reparations was possible. As a matter of fact, every payment Germany made in goods would really rebound on those receiving it, and ultimately lower our standard of living. He drew a parallel between Germany and America in this connection.

After his address quite a number of questions were asked. He dealt with these in his most effective manner.

On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning Mr. Alexander met a good number of constituents to pension cases and other anomalies. We may say Mr. Alexander is kept very busy with this kind of work. Nevertheless, he is doing his best to remedy these grievances.

He Came.

Jocular Old Party (about to board a train on a pouring wet day): "Ah, conductor, is this Noah's Ark of yours full?"

Conductor: "No, sir; there's just room for the donkey. Come on, sir."

LOCAL LABOUR NOTES.

Afternoon.

The Afternoon Labour Party have elected the Hillsborough and Shiregreen Co-operative Institutes with good effect, and are holding Sunday evening meetings every week in the Girt-road Institute. During the last meeting, Councillor C. H. Wilson, M.P., Tom Smith, M.P., Councillor F. Marshall, Messrs. Davidson, W. Goswami, W. A. Byrnes, and Rev. T. R. Pickering, gave addresses well-attended meetings.

The Women's Section is also progressing. Meetings are held at 26, Clippington-street, on alternate Wednesdays. When the new institute is opened in Shireland-line the meetings will be held on Monday afternoons.

The Tinsley Women's Section meet separately, as it is a good distance from Tinsley to Clippington-street. Mrs. Whitely, 724, Gresham-road, who is acting as secretary, asks me to give a special invitation to all Tinsley women. Meetings are held in the guildroom, Bawtry-road.

The party is also holding a series of meetings every Friday evening. Labour College lecturers give the addresses on alternate Fridays, other local speakers have also been booked.

Brightside.

The Brightside Labour Party held their victory social to celebrate Mr. Pousonby's return, at the Cutlers' Hall, on February 6th. After the reception there was a fine programme of music arranged by Mr. Hirst. Mr. Pousonby had some difficulty to speak on account of the tremendous applause which greeted him. During the course of his address, he pointed out that whilst the North of England was pretty sound for Labour, the South was called upon to do more work in the south. When we had some of the same strength in the South of England that we had in the north, we should have a Labour Government.

The Brightside Ward Committee arranged another social for Saturday, February 17th, to celebrate the return of Councillor Dealey. It seems probable late in the day to celebrate municipal elections, but it will be remembered that the general election was only a fortnight later, and the Brightside people were kept full at all the time. They were quite prepared to postpone one celebration in order to create the possibility of another.

Hillsborough.

The remarkable success of the Hillsborough Labour Party has been due to a small measure to the untiring loyalty of its members, both men and women; still further progress is expected during the present year. The ward committee—Hirst, Goswami, Neepstead and Walkley—are well in harness with their preparations for propaganda; not having overlooked arrangements for various social events which have proved so successful in the past.

The usual monthly meeting held in the Cundy-street Schoolroom, on February 7th, was no exception to the general rule of success on these occasions. Mr. J. Parkin, the Walkley representative on the Guardians, gave an excellent account of the splendid fight which the Labour and Co-operative group had put up against big odds for the unemployed relief workers, particularly with regard to the position on the Fulwood extension. Councillor Mrs. Whitely was at her best in describing the Labour representatives' work on the various committees and in the Council itself. There is a difference between the press reports and the wealth of intimate details that our representatives supply us with at these meetings. The report Mrs. Whitely gave surprised the members with knowledge of vast importance to these as citizens. There were over 150 present, and despite of the miserable weather conditions prevailing at the time. A hearty vote of thanks was given to both speakers. The party is carrying out the

instructions of Mr. Alexander when he dug in the ground we have won." Councillor Butler has handed over the reins of Secretary to George Byrd. The latter is leaving up stone unturned to achieve cohesion and future success. The new executive which meets monthly is facing now the problem of a "home." The Women's Section had a treat when Mrs. Brown Glazier spoke to them. They have been spurred on to strengthen further the position of Labour in the division. I am asked to give a hearty invitation to all Hillsborough women to the monthly meeting held on the second Tuesday in the month at 2.30 p.m. in the Cundy-street Schoolroom. Messadams Swift and Byrd are busy in preparations for the bazaar. I am told they are going to show the men how it should be done.

Neepstead.

Neepstead is still politically alive, even though they ring no bells down there. Mr. Alexander met with a good reception during his recent visit. There were over 100 present in the Railwaymen's Institute, but such a grand room ought to have been packed. We wonder why there were relatively few present? The meeting was well packed. A fine meeting it was, too. Councillors Bancroft and Watkins were at Apple-street on the 19th to report on their council work. Jim Astill, Palmer, and others are keeping the Neepstead councillors on the run. They intend that co-operation and Labour shall be inseparable in the Neepstead district.

James Allen, the Neepstead Guardian, recently addressed the Neepstead Men's Guild. I understand that he had rather a rough time there. Also he seemed surprised to find the co-operative members so conversant with Poor-Law and its history. The co-operators in Neepstead desire to express their sympathy with Mr. Wrydale (the manager of the Parkwood Springs branch) in the loss sustained by the death of his wife.

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THE MAN WITH AN EMPTY BELLY.

By JAMES HASLAM.

I STIFFED off a cat—a tramcar, of course—at the corner of our suburban street last night. It was raining. The road was slippery, and the wind was a little blustering. I heard the pattering of feet behind me. Slop, slop, slop, slop. It was the foot of eleven. Except for the wind all was silent. The road was deserted.

The being with the slip-slop feet caught up to me. It was a youngish man of fine speech. He was self-sufficiently dressed. His face was very pale and reflected the light from the glowing arc-lamps along the wide thoroughfare. He was trembling slightly.

He touched me gently, and said: "Do you think there will be a revolution in this country, sir? I hope not, but it's hard to live."

A revolution! What could I say? I mean at the moment?

"I'm not sure," I remarked. "Why?"

"Well, things are black. The Russians, the Turks, the French, the Austrians, the Italians, the Germans, a revolution would do any good."

Again I was nonplussed. I think a man ought to give me notice of questions like these.

"You don't seem to know," he remarked. "Perhaps you are well off!"

I was silent for a few seconds. It seemed strange that this young man unknown to me, and I unknown to him, should accost me in this manner. Revolution. We were walking by the side of trees under the spreading branches of trees, lining the long and luxurious gardens of rich men's houses. Here was the stately domicile of a big shipper, or the mansion of a merchant prince, or a wealthy cotton manufacturer, or a well-known ironmaster; and here was I, with this young man, he drove at the heels, with sad eyes, and who was obviously hungry.

Of course, I did not expect to meet with a revolution in this plutocratic locality. The situation rather fascinated me.

Is he and I blurted out: "What is the matter with you?"

"Out of work," he said, laconically. "He went out every walked the streets," he meant, "all day, and the next day, hungry, looking for work and not being able to get it?"

I did not say I had but I let him go on.

"Perhaps you have never been out of work," he remarked, guessing wrongly. "I've had ten weeks of it, sir. Perhaps you don't know what it is to go home, as I am going, and the wife waiting for something which I have not—food!"

And the children! My God, sir, do you think there's going to be a revolution in this country, this country of ours—England? And would it do any good?"

Once more I had to be evasive. I was wondering what to do. It was all so sudden. The wretched reality of the

young man, the sad face, the soft pleading voice, was over powering me. Why was this frail creature, trembling as the wind blew, asking me to talk of it to him? Why was he asking me to talk of it to a stranger? Was it the mere passing expression, the transitory discontent of a hungry body?

"Have you been listening to wild speeches?" I asked.

"No, sir," was the prompt reply.

"Did you ever talk of revolution before you were hungry, and your immediate outlook seemed hopeless?" was my next query.

"Well, now that you put it that way, I—I don't think I did, sir."

"No; to have too many hungry men in a State is a danger. It might upset things."

"Well, what if it did?" he asked, sharply.

"I don't think," I said, humoring him.

"Are you out of work?" he queried.

"No; to have too many hungry men in a State is a danger. It might upset things."

"I argued the point with him. I took him in the house and filled his belly with food. I gave him food to take to his young wife and children. I gave him a pipe of tobacco and it lit."

"Yes," I replied. "I know that hunger breeds strange and bitter thoughts in us. But I should say that it was better at all to have a revolution, swift or gradual, not on an empty belly, but on a mind furnished with knowledge of things as they are, and what might be in another and a higher state of society. And—but there goes midnight, and I turned him into the street and the rain."

Where he is to-night I do not know!

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IMMEDIATE ACTION NECESSARY

ALEXANDER PUTS IN ANOTHER PLEA FOR SHEFFIELD.

FINE SPEECH IN THE COMMONS.

"HANSARD," WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 1923.

"I will not long detain the House in going into the case of the necessitous area which have been dealt with so fully by the hon. Member who has just sat down by the hon. Member for West Middleborough (Mr. T. Thomson), but deal with any constituency in Sheffield, one of the most heavily-rated areas in the country at the present time. I would like to point out the duty on the part of myself and other hon. Members if we did not draw the attention of the Government to cases of the kind and require from them immediate action in the direction we have indicated. We in Sheffield are exceedingly disappointed that, after all the pressure which has been put upon the Government, with all the facts and figures which have been brought to their notice, that there was no mention at all of this particular side of the case in the gracious Speech from the Throne, whilst at the same time there was definite mention of similar problems in the opinion of us not quite so urgent—in regard to the rating question in agricultural areas.

Not a Question of Party.

"In one's constituency in Sheffield, with all its burdens, the people have been not only unemployed, but overburdened with rates, and while this is so, the Government of the day are talking about relieving the rating problems in agricultural constituencies, and saying nothing at all about the special burdens of the industrial areas. I am perfectly certain what their opinion would be of His Majesty's Government at the present moment, I asked for it. It is not, as has been said, that we want to make party capital out of the question. The urgent necessity is to get immediate relief for those who are suffering in places like Sheffield. For the reasons I place I cannot imagine that the Government have seriously considered the problem in the case of a city like Sheffield, or in the case mentioned by my hon. friend the Member for West Ham (Sir Thorne). I wonder if the Government realise that in Sheffield from March, 1921, to November, 1922, in the Poor-Law Unions they have paid in out-relief to the unemployed alone, apart from their other relief, a sum of £1,300,000? Since that period, although the number of unemployed has dropped very slightly, Sheffield is still continuing to pay out-relief at the rate of £100,000 per week. They have all the aid prospect mentioned by the hon. Member for West Middleborough of that burden make really adequate provision for dealing with the question of the twelve weeks' gap which commences in April.

Ide Plant.

"Whilst we join heartily in the association to put pressure upon the Government for the various constituencies concerned, we want that relief especially in regard to places like Sheffield. As the President of the Board of Trade knows, the leaders of the armament industry in Sheffield actually had a consultation with the Government some time ago as to whether they would be able to keep going the plant which was essential to turning out the heavy armaments, armour plating, heavy guns, and the like. The Government in effect told them to keep the place idle. The plant is unsuitable for dealing with any other kind of production, but the Government have made no special contribution to Sheffield for keeping that plant idle all this time. Not only are they faced with this awful burden week by week, but with their plant entirely unproductive the workmen of Sheffield are kept without work.

"Take, for instance, the analogous instance of Krupp at Essen. Up to, at present rate, the period of the French occupation of the Ruhr, and I fancy even at the present time Krupp's organisation at Essen has been practically transferred for the purposes of peace production. I heard an hon. Member describe it short while ago whilst he saw at Essen,

how they were pouring out for peace purposes orders for all over Europe. On the other hand, with regard to converting the steel industry of Sheffield to peace production, this is largely being held up by the fact that the owners are urged, indirectly at any rate, to keep their plant intact for the kind of production required. At the present time they have enormous rates upon the plant as well as upon their buildings. That means that they are often in regard to contracts left in the lurch. Only the other day we had the case of a contract. There was competition between Sheffield and other towns in the country. On account of the enormous charges for poor rates upon the firms concerned they were not able to quote at anything like the figure given by the firms whose burden was not so heavy. This, in effect, meant that because they have a small number of unemployed in these other places and have not been so adversely affected by the after-war slump, they are able to go on securing more and more work, while in places where, as at Sheffield, unemployment has been more prevalent, they are being more severely handicapped because the Government does not come to their relief, and the financial pressure upon the ratepayers and upon industry leaves the thing at a point where we have little hope of curing the unemployment that at present exists.

An Appeal to the Ministry of Health.

"We are almost tired of putting this question before the Government. During the last short session we not only pleaded the case as a body of private Members, I think it is about time that we had a Minister of Health on the Treasury Bench to answer our case. I hope the present Minister will be successful in gaining a seat or else give way to someone who can be responsible here for that department. I think the Government will provide a live Minister of Health before very long. I suggest to the Government that this is a question which brooks no further delay. The Minister of Health in his last letter said that for some time a Cabinet Committee had been considering the question of grants to necessitous areas. I want to know how long they are going to deliberate and keep us knocking at the door in order to relieve burdens that are becoming more and more intolerable, and are likely to get far worse. When I visualise some of the scenes I have witnessed in my own constituency of these unemployed who out of their poverty have to pay sometimes 1s. and sometimes 2s. 6d. weekly to the rating authorities, and when I see the complacency with which the Government treat this question, I almost despair.

The Limit of Human Endurance.

"We are making this last effort and we ask, now that they are being urged, not merely from the Labour Benches, but from all parts of the House, that these people are not to have any help at all. Surely they will see the wisdom of what we are putting forward, and for the sake of even stability and general security in the towns for which we are speaking, they will take immediate action. There is a limit to human endurance. The Chief Constable of Sheffield has paid a very great compliment to these men for the patience and endurance which has been shown by over 30,000 unemployed in the City of Sheffield, and if the Government are not going to do something quickly in order to end the awful stress of the present situation, we shall be having some of these men sleeping over the border. We do not want that sort of thing, and it would be a much better policy for the Government to meet the situation as a national responsibility by relieving the areas which are suffering so much.

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Book Reviews.

"The Principles of Public Finance," by Hugh Dalton, M.A., D.Sc. (Cassell Reader in Commerce in the University of London). Published by G. K. Routledge and Sons Ltd., 35, net.

This is an excellent book on the principle of public finance, and it is marked by a broader and more humane outlook than is common in books dealing with this subject. It is one of a valuable series of works produced by lecturers and students of the London School of Economics and Political Science, which implies that it has academic authority, and yet it is not so conservative in its views as academic work usually is. For example, "particular attention is here given to the effects of public expenditure on various objects, including armaments on the one hand and education, health, and other social services on the other."

Now, this point is particularly one that needs explaining to millions of people, including Cabinet Ministers; and there are scores of similar points that can only be plainly and thoroughly understood by one who is in possession of knowledge such as this book can give. To take an instance (not referred to in the book, by the way), how many voters know that there is no real difference—except in amount—between the "grant" of £10,000 a year given to a prince and the "dole" given to an out-of-work? They are both simply State grants to those who otherwise have no present means of subsistence; and whatever vice there may be about a "dole," the same will apply to a grant. Not that this is intended to be a slur on princes by any means; they, like the out-of-work, are the prey of circumstances, and instances of real social neglect.

The Real Government

Of England—and of Europe, too, for that matter—is not so much the hand of chosen men resulting from a general election, but the cliques of money controllers who wield the effective power. This is surely a clear reason why those who seek to take their fair share of government should be fully alive to its financial methods; and this book, whilst insufficient in itself for the purpose, is yet the best introduction to the subject I have yet come across. The principles of taxation, the printing press as a maker of money, the meaning of that much-abused word "economy," and three chapters on public debts are all valuable. "There is," says the author, "a sharp distinction between false and true economy, between spending as little as we can, regardless of the results attained, and spending whatever is necessary in order to produce the best results possible—in short, between spending little and spending wisely." How timely a remark for the ears of Chancellors of the Exchequer and Finance Committees of City Councils—and equally so for persons who, like the man who starts a small business, sell books or music, or theatre-and concert, may save money and lose his own and—not very much of an economy! And a public and saving money at the expense of the soul of a people (or even their bodies) may save something, but it will lose something also. It is the function of a man, or of a council or government, to spend all it can get, providing it can spend it well. There are, at this present moment, city financiers who, in the social sense, would—and do—rob a child of its dinner!

Perhaps some millionaire philanthropist, weary of giving, of founding chairs at universities, endowing churches, and subscribing to all kinds of funds, all striving to keep society in a continuous state of decay, will turn his attention to this chance, and send a copy of the book to all who are in financial authority over us. If he does not feel that way, perhaps at any rate he will buy a copy for himself and read the last chapter, in which he will discover that there is, in still, small voice," in even academic circles which announce the worth of the £1 Capital Levy." D.



THE POOL

By MARGARET CARLTON.

BURIED deep among the beech trees of the Black Forest, and surrounded by delicate wild fern and mosses, there is a pool of quiet water, said to be deep, and at certain times of the year haunted. The simple folk who live in the village, in the clearing a few miles away are wont to tell one another weird tales of shadowy forms seen hovering near it during the fall of the year, and they dare not go near. But at other times, the children in search of bluebells often wander to its very brink and peer into its unfathomable depth, and coy maidens adjust their curls in its reflection.

A tale is told of the pool that many years ago, before the village was built, a solitary woodcutter's cottage stood in the clearing. Michel, the woodcutter, lived there with his daughter, Freya, and his brother, Dagmar.

Freya had no playmates, and so the trees, and the birds, and the flowers, and, above all, the beautiful silent pool, were her friends. On its clear surface she saw multitudes of fairies and pixies go flitting by, and then visions of her father cutting down some mighty tree, or of her uncle sitting before his charcoal heap, would come. Then she began to see even more wonderful things of the big world beyond the forest.

People came from far away to hear her tell of the things she saw, and they gave her beautiful presents and money, until her father could have left his wood-cutting and gone to live in the city. But he was a simple soul and he preferred to stay in the forest. His brother Dagmar, however, was very covetous and wanted to go and make money given to Freya, and he hoped that then some Michel would die, for very he would be able to spend it, while Freya stayed by the pool-side and made him rich. Dagmar became so obsessed by this desire that when a young noble rode many times into the forest and wished to take Freya away and make her a grand lady, he thought of very evil things.

Michel was old, but still strong, and he wished Freya to do as she wished and be happy, and so he said he would let her go with the young noble.

Freya and her lover went down to the pool for the last time, and they were very, very happy, and all the beautiful and wished to take Freya away and make her a grand lady, he thought of very evil things.

Then suddenly Dagmar came running towards them with his sharp axe in his hand, for he meant to kill the young noble. But the noble was stronger than Dagmar, and he wrestled the axe from him, and flung it far into the middle of the pool. Dagmar, who was very much afraid of Freya's magic of seeing things in the pool, watched the ripples spread and widen, then he turned and fled far into the forest.

Freya looked hard into the water, but it was only water, and the ripples had broken the surface. The axe which was designed to be used for evil intent had dispensed all the magic of the water, and now when the least wind stirs the ripples run rapidly across the pool's surface. Into the pool the noble rode away the night no more, but the tale knows that the noble died, and it is said that one dark night Dagmar stumbled and fell his axe. But so he means if it is true, in the quiet pool, though some folk on the surface have seen an axe floating on the surface, but the countless number of stones which the countless number throws into it, must have buried it.

Michel, who had his cottage disappeared, and the village grew up, but the pool remained and kept its secret.

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Bill: "Not much, gov'nor; I want my change here."

Not the Only One.

Pat: "What'll I do, Mike, now that the bone has sucked ye?"
Mike: "I'll just go back to me former job."

Pat: "What was that, then?"

Mike: "Lookin' for work, begorra."

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Got a Job On.

"There is no danger," said the doctor. "It is only a carbuncle coming on the back of your neck; but you must keep your eye on it."

No Ear for Music.

The celebrated soprano was in the middle of her solo, when little Freddy said to his mother, referring to the conductor of the orchestra, "Why does that man hit at the woman with his stick?" "He is not hitting at her," replied his mother; "keep quiet."

"Well, then, what is she hollerin' for?" said Freddie.

"Johnnie," said mother, "why don't you let your little friend have your sleight part of the time?"

"I do," replied Johnnie. "I have it going down the hill, and he has it coming up."

Oh, I Say!

Demition! I am done, I'm beat; My light's gone out, I've lost my sent. For donkey's years—oh, dish—Demition!

I've been M.P. for this division. I cannot crow, I only wail, A peacock I without a tail.

Why did I stand for Coalition? Demition!

No longer I'm a grand M.P.; They've turned me down. Just fancy, ME!

I—1, who've ruled for many a day; Oh, Poppo, what will Mother say? I'm cut out—oh, I'd like to bellow— And by a common working fellow; No power, no prestige, no position— Demition!

Why did I shout from hill and steeple For votes from such poor, common people?

Why did I visit slums and hovels, And joke with men with picks and shovels?

Why did I pander to the gabies? Why did I nurse their pudgy babies, A gentleman in my position? Demition!

—SAM FITTON.

Getting Their Own Back.

A rather brutal thing was said un-awares at an evening party. Shortly after midnight a gentleman was pressed forth the excuse that at that late hour the next-door neighbour might object. "Oh, never mind our neighbours," cried the young lady of the house. "They poisoned our dog last week."

An Outrage.

First Labourer: "Old Bill's just fell off the scaffold and broke his leg. They've just taken him to the hospital."

Second Ditto: "What! Taken 'im to the hospital now? Why, it's 'is dinner hour!"

When He Was Thirsty.

"And how many glasses of beer would you—consume in a day?"
The Thirsty One: "Well, I can't say, gu'nar. Some days I 'as about twenty or thirty, and then again on other days—I might 'ave quite a lot."

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