



The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE



No. 31.

MAY, 1925.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000.

SHALL WE ABOLISH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT?

EARLY in May the Bill introduced by our friend Mr. Rennie Smith, M.P., for the abolition of capital punishment will receive its second reading in Parliament. Under these circumstances, it may be well to give a statement of the case in favour of this Bill, which we hope will be passed by a considerable majority.

As a people, we are very hesitant to make what are considered to be "experiments" in social and political affairs, despite the fact that we pride ourselves on the high degree of our civilisation. We sadly lack social enterprise—the form of enterprise that really matters—and other countries have led the world in the abolition of capital punishment. Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Italy, and Portugal are examples of nations which have rid themselves of this relic of barbarism, so that we can scarcely feel that we are likely to be too "progressive" in following their lead.

100 YEARS AGO.

—Up to the year 1826 there were no fewer than 200 crimes punishable by death—a state of things which had existed for centuries. There were many who feared any revision of the law which would lighten this penalty for any particular crime, but as both judges and juries were resorting to all kinds of devices to avoid passing sentence of death, some modification of the law was essential.

—We had a Royal Commission on the subject of capital punishment as far back as 1865, prior to which executions were public! Isn't it time we went a step further, and abolished this horror from amongst us altogether?

PUNISHING THE INNOCENT.

—We pass by the fact that sentence of death is carried out in some cases where there is no possibility whatever of being absolutely certain that the prisoner is really guilty—though that is serious enough, surely. Where there is no doubt as to guilt, the chief punishment often falls upon innocent people. The criminal is truly the central figure in the whole ghastly ritual, and completes it by having his life taken, but there his punishment by law ends. Yet frequently sentence leaves relatives—parents, an aged mother, a wife, maybe children—who are all open to a lasting sense of shame by their very contact with the society from which the prisoner himself is carefully excluded. They would only be too glad to be locked up along with him. A social atmosphere is an enormously powerful thing: the prisoner is shielded from them, and the innocent relatives left to bear his burden. There is the chance, too, that he may have a fond place in their hearts, in which case the "justice" that takes his life takes much more from them. He pays in the anguish of days, and they in the enduring agony of years. As a form of punishment, therefore, it very largely misses its aim.

A BRUTALISING THING.

Supposing, however, that we shrink from our mind the absurdity of punishing innocent people in our attempt to deal with the guilty. There remains the most powerful of all reasons for abolishing capital punishment. *A nation's penal code is the measure of its civilisation.* The gross and horrible taking of life by law is a confession of barbarism; it shows that society can, and does, produce types of life it cannot control, and has no higher ideal than that of merely stamping them out, careless of injury to others and to itself as a whole. To set one's hand to cause unnecessary suffering is a debasing and brutalising thing, whether it be done by the Spanish Inquisition or the judge of an English High Court. The motives were, and are, frequently good in such cases, and English judges are not more bloodthirsty than the rest of us. But they carry on a tradition that we must purge out of ourselves if we are to come to the mind-set that is rightly ours. Fancy a modern society asking any man to take on the office of hangman for a bribe! The attempted suicide of Ellis the executioner, and the suicide of Lazel, the former chief warden of Wandsworth, who was worried by the executions he had witnessed, ought surely to make us pause!

TOOLS.

—But supposing the judge who passed sentence of death were suddenly called upon to carry out his own sentence? The fact is, of course, that judges and juries and counsel are but indirectly related to the execution itself—they carry on a tradition; professional capacity is at stake in the case of counsel, and they are all dependent upon a tool for the carrying out of the sentence they have jointly secured. If judges and juries had to perform executions, there would be no more hangings! Like several abominable and brutal actions in this world, executions are done by "tools." Once personal responsibility is really brought home to us, we become much more careful of our actions, and there can be no finer challenge to our conduct than that which comes by "tools" responsibility. Many kings of old, many princes of consequence to-day who confess a hard creed which they say is necessary for the

success of business, alike would fail to carry out some of their own cruel commands—their humanity would revolt. Yet because others were, and are, under their control, the brutal thing is done by a human tool whose will is not his own.

POISONING THE PEOPLE.

—And what of the effect of all this upon the populace? To manufacture grumblings in a stage setting of solemnity, as we do at our executions, is to stir the mind of the whole people, old and young, with a most unhealthy excitement. Imaginations are turned from their rightful course, and set actively to work in the very lowest levels of human activity. The ideals of the people are injured, their finer sensations tend to be dulled, and their time is taken up with the contemplation of horror instead of the joy that life can offer. This poisonous food for the mind of the young is a serious matter.

—If all men are brethren, then, my brothers, we had better see whether we have no wiser treatment for the criminal for his sake and for our own.

SENTIMENT.

—Of course, all this will be disposed of by some people as being but "sentiment." That comment has probably been gibed passed by the thoughtless when every progressive social act was first suggested. "Let us cease persecuting people who hold other religious views than our own," we can fancy one saying in his nose-twe-dickant past, and the "practical" man of the time sneering out the one word "sentiment." To seek the welfare of all children, the care of the sick, the maintenance of the aged—all this has been denounced as sentiment in its day. All history has been the record of the triumph of "sentiment." The prophets like Ruskin—who told us "there is no wealth but life"—the poets like Burns—who told us that "a man's a man for a' that"—and the moral geniuses like Christ—who once said "let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone"—are all on the side of what some would disparagingly call "sentiment." But they show the trend of the highest culture of our race, and we should do well to stand firmly and

courageously by sentiment. We look back with horror and astonishment at human sacrifice, at hangings for trivial thefts, at mutilations and disfigurements, all of which were stoutly defended in their day by people of narrow outlook, as capital punishment is to-day.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

This does not mean that we should let the criminal loose upon society. In fact, the present law does a great deal too much of that by imprisoning time after time men who, upon liberation, are certain to commit further crimes. *Society has a right to protect itself*, but it must do so humanely and intelligently, or be the loser. The man or woman who has committed a murder, and a number of others who are regularly making themselves nuisance, should be set apart—not in prison, but in labour colonies where the treatment is good (much better than in a modern workhouse), but absolutely segregated from society except for occasional visits from relatives who so desire. And they should be, and could be, entirely self-supporting.

—This procedure would remove the danger of their presence—it might even do them good; it would certainly do us good, far more good than hanging them, or even punishing them. "Punishment is mischief; all punishment is evil," said Jeremy Bentham; and we had better face the fact, for with all our punishing we do not get immunity from crime. Don't, please, argue that punishment deters people; it doesn't. On the whole, punishments were never so light as now; on the whole, crime was never less than now. Compared not year by year, but century by century, the rate of the irrefutable facts of history which abolishes the "deterrence" plea for ever.

—The conditions about us which we have made, and are making, have made, and are making, ideas whose we call our criminals. When slums have gone there will be less babies foredoomed to a life of crime; meantime, if we cannot have the ideal, let us at least be humane and intelligent in our treatment of criminals, and do all we can to support Rennie Smith's Bill. B.

THE WHEATSHEAF HOLIDAY GUIDE.

—Our "Wheatshaf Holiday Guide" which reaches us in good time for the holiday season, is a little book, handy for the pocket, and set packed with information. This year's number, which is the sixth issue, has been enlarged from thirty-two pages, and contains a concise description of resorts, and other features, should prove exceedingly useful to any holiday makers in quest of the "best" yet for 1925.

—The scope of the guide is mainly Great Britain, but there is a small selection devoted to holidays abroad, together with guest houses and similar arrangements. The fact that this guide has developed from thirty-two pages in the first number to the present size is an indication of the want it has filled; and the similar growth of the circulation which last year reached 60,000 copies is evidence of the interest it has made.

—Copies are to be obtained at 3d. from co-operative societies, and Messrs. W. H. Smith's railway bookstalls, or post free 4d. direct from "The Wheatshaf," 118, Corporation-street, Manchester.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.
TAILORING DEPARTMENT, THE ARCADE, ECCLESALL RD.

SPRING, 1925.

New Goods are now in stock, and all the Season's Best and Newest Designs and Colorings. 5/6
SUITS, TO MEASURE FROM 60/-
COSTUMES, TO MEASURE " 63/-
STYLE AND FIT GUARANTEED.

This Department is now under the Management of Mr. WM. FELL, who served the Society successfully as Cutter from 1913 to 1916. We have every confidence in soliciting your patronage, feeling that no effort will be spared to ensure your satisfaction.

Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society Ltd. :: Furnishing Dept.

STANFORTH ROAD AND FIR VALE, :

A Good Watch Avoids Worry.



A Good Watch Avoids Worry.

SPECIAL LINE, 6/-

WHY waste valuable time and money by seeing your train just steaming out of the station? This can be avoided by patronising your own Watch and Clock Department. Our Watches and Clocks are guaranteed to be the best value for money. Give us a Trial.

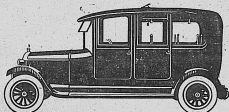
We have also a good range of JEWELLERY, CAMERAS, and PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, at competitive prices.

Watch and Clock REPAIRS promptly executed by fully qualified workmen. All repairs guaranteed for twelve months.

INSPECTION INVITED AT STANFORTH RD., AND FIR VALE FURNISHING DEPARTMENTS

BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Undertakers & Funeral Furnishers,
3, ATTERCLIFFE COMMON.



Motor Hearses and Cars, Coaches, and Broughams.

Every assistance given to Undertakers coming from a distance. Local arrangements made and hearse provided. Telephone, 547 (3 lines). Telegrams, "Society, Sheffield."

THE OFFICE STAFF will attend to all matters relating to our FREE LIFE ASSURANCE SCHEME, on behalf of relatives; and the DRAPEY, MILBURNY, and TAYLORING DEPARTMENTS will give every attention to the requirements of the family.

A Staff of Fully Qualified Workmen is engaged at the Brighton Lane Premises for Making and Furnishing Coffins to suit all general or special requirements.

Wreaths, Crosses, and other Floral Designs in Best Taste. Artificial Wreaths also supplied.

ATTERCLIFFE DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

HELLO!

The local Labour Party desires to draw your attention to the following Weekly Programme:-
 Monday, 7.30 to 10.30 a.m. - Bachel. Dinner. - 5d.
 Tuesday, 7.45 a.m. - Wash Day. - 5d.
 Wednesday, 7.30 p.m. - Women's Social Meeting.
 Wednesday, 7.30 p.m. - Members' Social. - 5d.
 Thursday, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. - Ladies Dinner. - 5d.
 Friday, 7.30 p.m. - Open for Party Workers. -
 Saturday, 7.45 p.m. - Wash Day.
 Secretary: Mrs. A. G. HARRISON, 14, Attercliffe Road, S. SHEFFIELD.
 Secretary: (Women's Section) Mrs. A. BAKER, 3, Attercliffe Road, Darvall.

ON THE TRACK OF THE ZINOVIEFF LETTER.

We reprint below an article from the "Daily Herald," which has been called to which the Capitalist Press of this country will go in order to prejudice the public against the Labour Movement. It will be remembered that the Zinovieff letter created a veritable panic amongst electors against the Labour Party, and secured the election of the Tory Government.

It is also significant that none of the papers other than the "Herald" has referred to this matter since these recollections have been made. Judging by past experience, we don't expect to see any reference to it, except in the case of one or two of the Liberal and Conservative papers of high repute, such as the "Manchester Guardian" and the "Sunday Observer."—EDITOR, "SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR."

In the committee of the Labour Party which is inquiring into the origin of the Zinovieff letter will apply to Herr Gutschinski (alias Druschewski), at 96, Ausbacher-street, Berlin, they are likely to make an interesting discovery.

This person, as we show on another page, stands convicted of being actively concerned in the forgery of the "Red letter" which is now being used as proof of the responsibility of communists for recent deplorable events in Bulgaria. We do not judge whether they were implicated or not. Even Conservative newspapers in this country have admitted "Observer" and "Standard" (among them) that the outrages were quite probably committed by Macedonians or by Anarchists; this possibility will, we believe, in time be turned into certainty. We will have to it to time to decide.

But what we can say with certainty to-day is that the "Red letter" published by the "Times" and other British newspapers is proof that abominable crimes were instigated from Moscow in a forgery, a shameful, fraudulent attempt to intensify hatred against the Russian people and their system of government.

This letter, according to the "Times," was captured on April 21st. Now, so far back as March 1921, the "Rote Fahne" of Berlin published a warning against forgeries on letter paper with a certain heading. This heading is on the paper which was sent by the writer of this forgery to Germany. The "Rote Fahne" had discovered that the Herr Gutschinski mentioned above had got this heading printed at a Berlin printing office. It was grotesquely unlike any heading either by the Soviet Government or by the Communist "International." Clearly, said the Berlin journal, some villainy is afoot; it therefore warned everybody to be on their guard against documents forged on such paper.

By that time, no doubt, the plot had advanced too far to be stopped, and this was very fortunate; thanks to that circumstance, one such forgery has been tracked to its source, and it is quite possible that we may find this source also responsible for the other one which was used against Labour with such deadly effect at the general election.

We know, at all events, that they were both fabricated by those who hope to restore the old order in Russia. Upholders of things as they are sympathetic in all countries with that desire. This explains their alarm over the agreement between British and Russian trade unionists, as well as their ceaseless acceptance of any lie, any forgery, that can damage the new order in Russia.

These are aspects of that new order which we dislike. We should certainly be sorry to see reproduced exactly here. But compare it with the old Czarist system; for no sincere Labour man or woman can there be any hesitation between them.

It is safe enough against its enemies. The fact that they are driven to employ such dirty weapons against it discovers their character and their desperate straits. This exposure will add to their discredit and discomfort. We have always felt sure that in time the origin of the Zinovieff letter would be revealed. Now we know how such things are manufactured, and who manufactures them. We seem to be hot upon the scent.

MR. ALEXANDER ON THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILDREN BILL.

THE fact of Mr. Alexander keeping continuously in touch with his constituents not only enables him to assist them by his advice, and to put their individual cases before the various Governmental Departments, but it enables him to bring a vast practical knowledge to bear on almost every question under discussion at the House of Commons. Recently he had to deal with the case where young married people, having no children of their own, had adopted a child, and were taking every possible step to give it a good education, and to bring it up just as their own child.

It appears that the law is very anomalous in this respect, and that the child could possibly be claimed and taken away from its foster-parents in later years. In this particular case the child regarded its foster-parents as its real parents, and the foster-mother and father were exceedingly anxious to retain their control of the child.

When the Adoption of Children Bill was before the House Mr. Alexander was able to give this particular case as an example, and in moving the adjournment of the debate said—

"I do so for the specific purpose of getting a better pledge from the Government than we have had. My hon. friend (Mr. Rhys Davies) pointed out that the terms of reference to the Committee had been widely extended, and that unless great care was taken the report of this Committee would be long delayed. I understand that the Under-Secretary will do all that he can to expedite a decision, but in my own constituency I have cases after cases brought to me now in which the people who are adopting children feel a very great hardship. It is only a few weeks ago that I put to the hon. gentleman himself the case of a working man and his wife who desired to adopt a child, and he could give me no consolation at all for these would-be foster-parents. If we are going to give any help in this matter, it would far rather that the Bill went to a division to-day. If the hon. gentleman will give us a pledge that in this Parliament the Government pledges itself to introduce a Bill which will deal with the recommendations of the Tomlin Committee, that will put a different face on it."

Mr. Locker-Lampson, replying for the Government, said—

"We will do our best, and we will also pledge ourselves, as a Government, to bring in a Bill dealing with this question in the life of the present Parliament."

CO-OPERATORS' DAY AT HILLSBOROUGH.

"CO-OPERATORS' DAY," which will be celebrated on Saturday, July 4th, bids fair to be a huge success—even greater than last year. The Hillsborough Park has been booked as the venue, and the suggested line of dance for a huge joint-entertainment of the various local co-operative societies. As last year, will be from Furnival-road, along Exchange-street, and to the main Hillsborough car route to the park afterwards. The vehicles will parade through the areas of the two co-operative societies.

In the park the co-operative children will give displays in music, dancing, acrobatic dancing, folk dancing, &c. Competitions are being fixed up, and two choirs will give an open-air concert. Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., will be the principal speaker, and Mr. John Dimbleby, J.P. (president, B. and C.C.S.), will preside.

The two catering departments are making arrangements for the sale of refreshments. Last year it is estimated that nearly 20,000 people attended the demonstration, and it is hoped that even more will be present on this occasion.

Further details of the demonstration will be given in subsequent issues of this journal.

ASK AT YOUR STORES FOR
"IVY" BRAND

BOOTS
AND
SHOES



Made by
HIGHAM FERRERS
CO-OPERATIVE BOOT
SOCIETY Ltd.,
Northampton.

CULCHETH
HALL
COUNTRY RESIDENCE
FOR CO-OPERATORS

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND

SITUATED in a delightful
country district between
Leigh and Warrington; ten
minutes' walk from Culcheth
Station, Great Central Railway;
twenty-five minutes from
Kenyon Junction, London and
North-Western Railway.

Tennis, Badminton, Croquet, Golf, Croquet, Billiards. Near to Kenyon Golf Links.

For particulars apply: Mrs. E. Brown, Manageress, Culcheth Hall, Newchurch, nr. Warrington, or Secretary, Co-operative Society, LEIGH, Lancs. Telephone, 26 Culcheth.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

BOOT

DEPARTMENT,
- THE ARCADE -
ECCLESALL ROAD.

A Most Complete Range of
BOOTS & SHOES
: for the Coming Season. :

REAL SMART
SHOES FOR LADIES,

In Black Glaze, Patent,
Willow and Tan Glaze,
either Bare, Oxford, or
Ghatch.
From 12/11 per pair.

Unobtainable Value for your CHILDREN
this Whitmaside.
LOW IN PRICE, but really
EXCELLENT QUALITY.

WHITE SHOES in all the
Latest Styles,
From 3/6 per pair.

Sheffield Cooperator.

MAY, 1925.

CO-OPERATION AND
LABOUR.

DELEGATES to the Independent Labour Party's Conference at Gloucester had been discussing the policy that ought to be adopted with regard to confiscation or compensation for property taken when nationalising enterprises. A reference was made to the effect that the policy of confiscation would have on the four-and-a-half million co-operators who own small amounts of capital in their societies. Dr. Hugh Dalton, the well-known Economist, made a resolution suggesting a compensatory method, and in doing so drew the attention of the conference to the position of co-operators as holders of capital.

After contending that confiscation would create general business disorganisation outside the industries nationalised, he intimated that sooner or later they hoped to be able to persuade co-operators to support the Labour Party, and he warned the conference that if confiscation was suggested, the capitalist Press would see to it that the situation was exploited in such a way as to foster a panic amongst co-operators.

It should be remembered that it is a definite part of I.L.P. policy to convert co-operators. The position is stated in the constitution thus:—"The basis of industrial democracy must be (1) the organisation of the wage and salary earners, and (2) the organisation of consumers."

Under the heading of "Immediate Objects" Section (d) "To strengthen and extend the co-operative movement with a view to its participation in the administration of the Socialist commonwealth."

Our own view is that discussion on this question at the I.L.P. branches will be exceedingly profitable, but co-operators should be warned against accepting the capitalist Press interpretation of the position.

That a great organisation like the I.L.P. should realise the importance of the co-operative movement is, in itself, a great thing. After all, whatever system may be devised as a result of the obvious failure of capitalism and the growing intelligence of democracy, the co-operative movement must, of necessity, play an exceedingly important part. Co-operators, and co-operators alone, have specialised in the organisation of consumers as consumers. The vast experience gained over a long period of years, will be invaluable to any government—local or national—that has for its object the social well-being not apart from the well-being of any particular class.

The fact that a large political organisation like the I.L.P. has recognised the value of the co-operative movement, and is to give detailed study to the part the movement ought to play in the future of our country, coupled with the entry of co-operators themselves into the political sphere, means that the mistakes of Italy—and for that matter, Russia—can be avoided in this country; and there need not be any clashing of interests between the various organisations who are seeking to establish a better order of society by steady, educational, evolutionary methods.

The wage-earner organised in his trade union, the consumer organised in his co-operative society, and the politician organised in the Independent Labour Party, have worked on parallel lines towards a given end. Discussion of their respective positions in the future is a welcome sign, indicating that a sense of social responsibility has become a real thing to them; and whilst justifying their own organisation as the best means of attaining their object, they realise,

nevertheless, that in the new social order each organisation will have its particular part to play. Discussion at this stage will educate not only their own members but the general public, and when the time comes for controlling the means of "production, distribution and exchange" in the interests of the whole of the people, each of the democratic organisations will play a part not detrimental to any other. Discussion will mean education; education will mean a broadening of the minds; and, instead of the stereotyped doctrinaire methods, which have caused so much bloodshed and so many failures on the Continent, we can see more than a possibility of avoiding force and securing the common object of all these organisations by the triumph of reason and common-sense.

LOSS TO SHEFFIELD.

We regret to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Penny, both prominent co-operative and Labour members, are leaving Sheffield, and taking up their residence at Heston Norris, Stockport. It will be remembered that Mr. Penny is a director of the C.W.S., and is desirous of living near to the centre of co-operative activities—Manchester.

Mr. Penny was at one time national secretary of the I.L.P., and has acted as agent for the late Keir Hardie, Joe Peator, and a number of other prominent Labour Members of Parliament. He was also editor of the "Sheffield Guardian" during the most successful period of its career. Along with a few others, he founded the "Planet" Insurance Society, which was subsequently merged into the great Co-operative Insurance Society.

He is a member of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society, and served for a number of years on the board of management, only retiring recently as a result of his appointment to the C.W.S. On behalf of the C.W.S., he has visited Russia, Greece, and Africa. A fine speaker, and a capable writer of national repute, he has always been willing to assist the local movement in every possible way. He has addressed meetings at the Hillsborough Institute, and was frequently on Mr. Alexander's platform during his election campaign.

Mrs. Penny, too, has also a national repute in the co-operative and Labour movements. A frequent contributor to the Labour and co-operative papers, she has spoken in behalf of various movements all over the British Isles. At one time she was editor of the "Women's Pages in the national" "Whistle-blast." The last Parliamentary election she ran as Co-operative candidate for East Leeds.

She has always taken a prominent part in Co-operative Party work since the movement entered the political arena. She has contributed many articles under various non-declamatory titles to this journal.

On a recent occasion the Purk Co-operative Guild, of which she was the original founder, presented her with a three-ber silver cake stand as a memento of their appreciation of her services. She has held office continually in this guild for the whole period of seventeen years, either as president or secretary.

Miss Leslie Penny also takes an active part in the workers' cause. For some time she conducted the children's educational classes in the Ecclesall Arcade, and she has done a good deal of writing under the non-declamatory of "Margaret Carlton," in the "Whistle-blast," the "Millgate Monthly," "Co-operative News," and other journals. Recently one of her stories was run as a serial in the Sheffield Telegraph and Star, since the inception of the "Sheffield Co-operator" she has conducted the column "For the Kiddies."

We know that Mr., Mrs., and Miss Penny will not cease their activities for the movement as a whole; but we very much regret that they are unable to so assiduously accept for work in Sheffield. We wish to place on record our thanks for the fine work they have both done in furthering the democratic cause in this city.

In replying to advertisements mention the "Sheffield Co-operator."

BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

FISH AND GAME BRANCHES: Order from SHARPLEY and J.P. Atwell's Co-operative Food, North, Grimsby.

Fresh Fish



LIVE COD. LING. CONGER. PLACE. HADDOCK. &c.

CHOICE FINNEY, FILLETS, KIPPERS.

Direct from Central Coasting Station.

FRESH COUNTRY EGGS.

Green Fruit Dept.

BRANCHES: Victoria, Carbroke, Order from Atwell's Co-operative Food, North, Grimsby, Grimsby, Grimsby, Grimsby.

EAT MORE FRUIT.

Always a Choice Selection of Apples and Peaches.

HOTHOUSE AND ORCHARD PRODUCE.

TOMATOES AND APPLES.

VEGETABLES.

FLORAL DESIGNS Made to Order.

SEASONAL CUT FLOWERS.

ORDER YOURS AND DELIVERED AT YOUR DOORS. DO NOT CHECK THE QUALITY! PRICE 50% GUARANTEED. A TRIAL SOLICITED.

You can't do without it!

Once you have seen it, you must get it regularly.

Why?

Because it is the best cheapest, the most illustrated, the most informing, the most entertaining collection of stories, articles, and poems published.

What?

The "MILGATE MONTHLY", which costs 5pence, and bears the imprimatur of a Whilling, Order at your co-operative stores, bookstall, or railway bookstall.

FOOTWEAR
FOR GENTS AND BOYS.

Holyoake
: Brand :
Is the MOST RELIABLE.

TRADE UNION STAMP No. 8.

can be purchased from any
co-operative Boot Department
in Sheffield.

Manufactured over by THE

KETTERING
CO-OPERATIVE
BOOT SOCIETY.

HAVELOCK WORKS, KETTERING

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

BOOT & SHOE
DEPARTMENT

Ladies' Department.

Willow Calf is the Fashionable
Leather for the Season!

See our Range of Up-to-date Styles in
BARS, OXFORDS & GIBSONS
10/11, 12/11, 13/11, 14/11, 15/11, 16/11 to 21/-
PATENT SHOES in all the de-
sired models, sizes and half sizes.
Smart and easy fittings.

TENNIS SHOES, and White
Holiday Footwear in great variety.

Men's Department.

GLACE BALS., & DERBYS
12/11, 13/11, 14/11, 15/11, 16/11, 21/-
BOX CALF BALS., & DERBYS
Summer Weights at Prices to
meet your requirements.

Smart Range of **MEN'S SHOES**
in Glace Kid, Box Calf, Patent,
and Willow Calf, 12/11, 13/11,
14/11, 15/11, 16/11, 21/- in various
fittings.

Children's Department.

GIRLS' BOOTS AND SHOES
in Patent, Glace, Box Calf and
Tan Willow, 6/11, 7/11, 8/11, 9/11,
10/11, 12/11, to 16/6.

BOYS' AND YOUTHS' BOOTS
AND SHOES for School and
Sunday Wear, at Prices that will
compare with anything in the trade
CHILDREN'S NURSERY
SLIPPERS AND BOOTS, in
Fashionable Variety, at Com-
petitive Prices.

LEICESTER "SELF-HELP"
BOOT & SHOE MANUFACTURING
SOCIETY, 2 Darnford Rd., Leicester.

Manufacturers of all kinds of

LADIES' & GIRLS' BOOTS & SHOES.

TRADE UNIONISTS EMPLOYED. All Work
on Commission. Prices Strictly Lowest. Ladies,
Gents and Children. Ask at your local Co-op.

"SELF-HELP" Brands.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

BY
"POLITICUS."



I SEE Mr. Stanley Machin (president of the Association of Chambers of Commerce) has been addressing the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, and laying the law down regarding industrial questions. As "Passer By" in the "Sheffield Independent" pointed out, however, "There was little in his speech." "He said as nothing which we did not know before, and his only constructive proposals were to tax the co-operative societies which would not affect the main issue one iota."

The "Telegraph," on the other hand, printed nearly a column-and-a-half of Mr. Machin's speech. I would like to make a few comments.

WIND MIX.

Let us take, first of all, the "wild" men of which Mr. Machin says "There is a body of men who are very self-confident that they can put all these things right, and can manage your affairs better than you can. They belong to a very ignorant body of super-Labour men calling themselves extremists. There are Mr. Maxton, Mr. Wheatley, Mr. Oswald Masley, and a few others, who said that the remedy for all these troubles is the abolition of capitalism."

Let us take these men in Mr. Machin's own sequence. First, Mr. Maxton. Mr. Maxton is a Master of Arts of the Edinburgh University. Mr. Machin says he is "ignorant."

Mr. W. Wheatley (late Minister of Health), formulated and piloted through the House the best Housing Bill on the Statute Book, and one calculated to solve the labour question in relation to housing, and assuredly the problem of the supply of materials. Mr. Wheatley's Housing Bill was the first really constructive proposal, which not only aimed at but obtained co-operation between the employer, the employee, and the State.

Mr. Oswald Masley, it would seem, has suddenly become both "wild" and "ignorant," because, up to a few months ago, he was a member of the Conservative Party, and as such, was held in great

esteem. Wonderful what a difference it makes to these great capitalists of industry if one of their colleagues sees the light and joins the Labour Party. They can be as unfair and abusive as ordinary mortals in political controversy.

He then turned his attention to a statement made by Mr. Snowden that British manufacturers were not up-to-date. He need not have quoted Mr. Snowden in this respect, for Mr. Garvin (editor of "The Observer") made the same point a few weeks ago in his leading article, regarding British manufacturers. He said: "On the other hand, it cannot for a moment be pretended that since the war, British capital as a whole has shown anything approaching the degree of ability and energy in large-scale organisation increasingly necessitated by the conditions of super-competition in the post-war age." And, further on in the same article, he asserts: "They had better take the beam out of their own eye and see themselves whether they have gone sufficiently to school, and whether they really grasp the meaning of the foreign examples they quote. The only educated man in one whose education never ceases; and when we no longer anticipate freshly every day and go forward to new understanding, our minds may die long before our bodies."

From which it will be seen that Mr. Garvin charges British manufacturers with not only being conservative in politics, but conservative in the management of their businesses.

Mr. Machin then went on to suggest the taxation of co-operative societies, asserting that they did not bear their fair share of national taxation.

It is rather curious that every Chancellor of the Exchequer who has made the attempt to tax co-operative societies, has soon been convinced that every co-operator is already bearing his fair share of taxation, and that there is no possible method whereby co-operators should be made legally liable to pay more. Mr. Machin, despite his reputation, is

talking the sheerest nonsense, when he says that co-operative societies do not pay taxation.

My friend, Mr. "Current Topics," pointed out in a recent issue that "it is a good deal of nonsense to bring written and talked about the morals of society, as if certain cases heard recently in the courts sets any index to the state of private morals generally. They are abnormal and unusual, which is why they are reported."

The "Morning Post" urges that reports of this kind should be curtailed, if they provide Socialists with a text for declamations against society. In quoting this, "Current Topics" asserts that "there may be something in that."

If only those people who too much money and want to do with it would spend out of the courts it would obviously be easier to persuade the "man in the street" that all was well in this best of all possible worlds; that capitalism was actually the best-ventured system that the Press makes it out to be. In short, if the unemployed at the top of the scale were given useful work to do as well as the unemployed at the bottom of the scale, one might tolerate the system.

I venture to suggest, however, that suppression of reports is hardly a remedy. What about the exaggeration of the influence of the deed in Press reports? Time and again we read how degrading it is because some man, some individual, has defrauded the Guardians or the Ministry of Labour. And for that matter, why should insurance payment be called a "dole" at all? As a matter of fact, the whole tendency of the capitalist Press is to try to show that insurance payment is made to rogues and vagabonds, and not to men who have contributed to the fund and who are absolutely unable to find employment because of the failure of capitalism. These reports are, always exaggerated, and the public is led to believe, as in fact one of our Recorders recently asserted, that the dole was responsible for house-breaking and other crimes. The Press which reasons from the particular to the general in this way, which picks out the worst cases of indolence and fraud amongst the workers, for its own particular purpose, ought not to complain if the whole of that section of society called the "upper ten" is tarred with the same brush as the people mentioned in recent notable Law Court cases.

In replying to advertisements mention the "Sheffield Co-operator."

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

COAL DEPARTMENT.

WE GIVE YOU FULL BENEFIT OF ALL REDUCTIONS.

REVISED PRICE LIST CAN BE SEEN AT ALL BRANCHES.

QUALITY AND SERVICE
GUARANTEED.

YOUR PARTICULAR NEEDS, OUR
PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Limited,
COAL DEPARTMENT.

Depots: QUEENS ROAD
& ABBEY STATION.

OUR RECENTLY REDUCED PRICES

should encourage keen and thrifty buyers to give us their
ORDERS FOR HOUSE COAL.

BOTH WORKS, or HIGH HAZEL 40/-
SUPERIOR QUALITY HOUSE COAL - 37/6
" **HUTS - 36/0**
S. & S. Special, HALF HOUSE COAL 37/-
and HALF HUTS 37/-
Delivered Free within 3 miles of our depots.

SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED TO
EVERY CUSTOMER.

Full Dividend.

GOOD QUALITY COAL IN BAGS,
1/10 per cwt. (extra for out-boundary).

Particulars can be obtained at all branches of
our Coal Club Instant System.

Prices reduced. Standard of quality maintained

Co-operative Party Notes. "By Co-op. public."

The Hillsborough Women's Section is still going strong. The preparations for the autumn Sale of Work are well in hand, and the women will have some masterpieces of industry, the result of their own handicraft, to put on sale. It being a more rural district attempted to describe the productions.

I understand they have arranged their first annual extension to Cleethorpe, and it will take place on Monday, July 27th. Mrs. Salmon (the secretary) has the tickets already in hand, and only looking in a casual way. The chairmen will start from Hillsborough Institute at 7 a.m. Arrangements have been made for the Grimsby Co-operative Society to supply lunch and tea at their Cleethorpe restaurant.

The Women's Section tea and social, held on Good Friday was a huge success. About 3000 were down to tea, and there would be at least 3000 people at the social. "Captain Keazey" acted as M.C.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party is also doing a fine work. The new committee has tackled the problem of the falling attendance at the meetings with such enthusiasm that there has been a great revival in the last few months. So much so that at the meeting on Monday, April 20th, the accommodation in the pub-house was too small. Quite a number of people were unable to gain admission.

The best thanks are due to the Institute play-actors for the splendid attendance. The organizers gave two shows of "The Two of Us," "The Idea of Persuasion," and "Argutus Does His Bit." The committee is approaching the play-actors for further service in this connection.

During the past session, Councillor Bancroft, Mr. Robinson, Mr. L. Fisher, Mr. A. Ballard, Mr. J. H. Beattie, and a number of other co-operative and Labour speakers have given addresses on various phases of political work.

Mr. Kell (the Hillsborough divisional secretary) is writing the card index of membership and vacancies of distributors, canvassers, and other workers are rapidly being filled. In short, the political machine in the Hillsborough Division has been working during the past few months so effectively, that if a general election came tomorrow, the party would be quite prepared for the fray.

The Newport section of the Co-operative Party never sleeps overworking. The secretary (Mr. Ashill) and his splendid committee are at work in season and out of season. Their next project is to secure a meeting-room as a centre for their activities. Already they have built up a small fund, and it is expected that the sale of Work at Hillsborough in the autumn will also result in some financial assistance for the new project.

Their candidate next November, Mr. J. A. Longden, attends every possible meeting, and preparations are already well in hand for a contest in the division, which Mr. Longden will touch every part of the wand.

The Co-operative Party study circle attended by present representatives and prospective municipal and Councilors' candidates, has already had two meetings. The subject taken for study being "Local Government Administration." The first of "Local Government" and "Local Finance" committees were taken for the last two meetings. The "Circle" meets fortnightly at Blank-street. Its purpose is the strictest specified and detailed knowledge of the administration of the city's affairs.

MR. CHURCHILL'S EFFORT.

After reading the Budget records, the consumer will probably rejoice that Mr. Snowden had, if only for one Budget day, the role of Chancellor in full; for this year's Budget has conferred no such boon on the consumer as last year's did.

The dramatically bold moves expected from Mr. Churchill by his admirers did not happen.

The Chancellor has increased the death duties on certain estates, but in his long speech he failed to show any reason why the estates of those who die millionaires should not pay increased duty as well as the estates of those less wealthy. Any increase in death duties by Mr. Churchill might be regarded as a real piece of characteristic Churchillian daring; but by way of atonement for that faltering outset upon executive wealth, Mr. Churchill has relieved living super-tax payers in such a way that what they lose in their coffers they will save in their pockets.

The consideration given to the smaller income tax payers who earn their incomes, coupled with the reduction of 6d. in the standard rate, will be a boon to many in the "black-tax" areas.

The masses of the people will welcome most of all the wider application of social insurance. We make no attempt here, for the present, to discuss the charge made upon the employer or the employee for the benefits to be received under the new scheme; but the prospect of Old-Age Pensions at sixty-five without consideration of the means of the recipient will certainly be welcome news to many who are within sight of qualifying.

The greatest boon of all is that promised to those who, married to insured persons, become widows after January 1st next. The widows will receive a weekly check for life, at any rate, so long as she remains a widow—with 6p. for the eldest child and 3s. each for other children till the youngest reaches the age of fourteen. The assured income is small; but many widows would have been saved from misery and agony had they had such provision.

As the health insurance scheme was learned from Germany, it may also be said that the latest scheme has been learned from Czechoslovakia, whose President, as readers know, is a devoted co-operator. The Czechoslovak Act was passed last year, and provides for sickness, disability, old age, pensions for widows, and orphan, and bonuses for children. The idea put forward by Mr. Churchill seems to improve upon that Act, as his scheme in turn will probably be improved upon to respond to our needs.

Our financial condition is still grave; it might have been considerably improved by the proper taxation of war profits when that could be done and by the application of a capital Levy, but even so, we are still in a struggle through which we passed and the post-credits policy sometimes pursued, the nation has reason to be thankful that it is not in a worse plight.

MR. ALEXANDER'S VIEWS.

"The Budget will not have any very great concern for co-operation from the consumers' point of view except that it is proposed to levy one or two new revenue duties, in addition to the proposed new duties on alcohol and the relaxation of the 'McKenzie duties.' This was the view expressed by Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., after the Chancellor's speech. "It is to be regretted," Mr. Alexander added, "that such heavy reminders of direct taxation should be undertaken by the Government and no further remission given to the taxes on food. Anyone who has examined the results of the reduction of the sugar duty by Mr. Snowden last year must be impressed with the benefits which have accrued not only as regards the purchasing capacity of the consumer, but the increase in trade and employment in the industries using sugar and its ingredients.

"Co-operators will be relieved that there is no proposal to tax their surplus, in spite of the strong pressure which has been brought to bear upon the Chancellor by the private traders' organisations."

WATCH AND WORK.

The choice of President in Republican Germany has fallen upon Marshall Van Hinderburg, who in a military sense figured so largely during the great war. And, according to newspaper reports, we are told that the women's vote has gone largely in the direction of this election.

Reflecting on the event, one may come to the conclusion that the man in the street has never been "peace baptised." He has war, possibly, and says he has no desire to repeat the mad four years experienced four years ago. But as an active peace advocate he does not consent. And what about the women? Does Hinderburg, and "the cult of beauty" seem to console them, and to empty their pockets. Such a statement may be boldness; it is none the less true. And which voting has to be done they are like straw in the stream, carried they know not whither.

As a movement pledged to peace, the Women's Guild has done much effective work, but it would do well to redouble its efforts. Should militarism become entrenched in Germany again, or in any other country, peace prospects will be insecure. Peace efforts need redoubling the League of Nations requires strengthening. What with our own Government establishing a new naval base at Singapore, unrest in Bulgaria, and Germany electing a President whose interests lie in military domination, it behoves us all to be "watching and working."

A WOMAN ON WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

A WOMAN correspondent, writing in the "Co-operative News," says—"The King's Speech far-outlined what has proved to be true, that widows' pensions are to be included in what has been described as "An All-in Contributory Scheme," including sickness insurance, old-age pensions, and widows' pensions.

Much as we may welcome the recognition of the principle of giving pensions to widows, co-operative women will be agreed that such pensions ought not to be placed on a contributory basis in the present Budget. It is, indeed, as well as dishonest, to argue that a country which is prepared to spend millions of money on a naval base at Singapore cannot afford to provide the fatherless children of the workers with a home in which the mother is set free from poverty and enabled to stay at home to look after her dependent boys and girls.

How can we welcome the scheme as the title end of the wedge, at the same time pointing out that the extra burden of 2d. on men and 1d. on women wage-earners will be difficult at a time when wages are being reduced? Under the Chancellor's scheme the women working up to sixty years of age will be contributing to the pensions of widows of twenty-five years, who might be well able to look after their children. So it seems an unnecessary burden on the State to give pensions to childless women merely because they have married. Of one thing we all certain, the pension will not keep widowed mothers.

Men's and Youths' High-Grade Footwear,
The "Blandford" Brand
WALKING, TENNIS, GOLF, SOFTBALL,
GOLF, FOOTBALL.



London, Made in
Holland, Cares
Rubber Soles.

Style and Substance in all our footwear. Every pair guaranteed.

Manufactured by us
Midland Boot Manufacturers Ltd.
WELLINGBOROUGH.

Proved by Merit
To be Worthy of the Name.

"THE IDEAL"
Ladies' Tailor-Made Costumes.
Gentlemen's High-class Bespoke Tailoring.
Boys' Suits.
Hats and Caps.
Can be obtained at your Stores.

The Ideal Clothiers Limited
Works - - - Wellingborough

"OUR CIRCLE"
Monthly, 1d.
A Clean and Popular Magazine for Young Folk
Full of Stories, Pictures, and Competitions.

Published by the National Co-operative Publishing Society Limited
Lane Millers, Manchester.

LADIES, GIRLS, AND BOYS' FOOTWEAR.

Speropé Brand :
MADE UNDER TRADE UNION CONDITIONS.
STAMP NO. 12.



STOCKED BY ALL CO-OPERATIVE BOOT DEPARTMENTS IN SHEFFIELD.

KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD MANUFACTURERS LTD.
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETY,
Dunst House, East Gate, NOTTINGHAM

MAKERS OF ALL KINDS OF
PLAIN, RIBBED, AND FANCY
HOSIERY, LADIES' AND
GENTLEMEN'S UNDERWEAR

Every Co-operator should give their goods a trial. Sure to give satisfaction. Made under the best conditions, and supplied at Year Out Prices.

ASK FOR
ASHFIELD BRAND
HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR.

TO
THOSE IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES
THIS WHITSUNTIDE!

The BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY will allow members

£1 to £5 WORTH of GOODS.

(Larger amounts by special arrangement only)

DRAPERY. CROCKERY. CLOTHING.	HARDWARE. FURNISHING. MILLINERY.	BOOTS. FANCY GOODS. COAL.
------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------

YOU MAY REPAY 1s. to 5s. per week AT YOUR OWN BRANCH.

ASK YOUR BRANCH MANAGER FOR FULL PARTICULARS TO-DAY.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.
DECORATING DEPARTMENT, CEMETERY ROAD.

PAINT
The CHEAPEST and BEST

OUR New Derby Factory is now turning out 1,000 TONS per annum, and can claim to be the best equipped factory for Paint manufacture in the world.

C.W.S. PAINT at 9d., 1 lb.; 1/5, 2lb.; 2/8, 4 lb.; and VARNISH PAINT at 1/1 per pound, sold at your own Store, is unequalled for Quality.

Buy your Paint at the Stores, and share the Profits.

LET US QUOTE YOU FOR THAT DECORATING JOB. A GUARANTEED JOB AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

SEND A POST-CARD, AND WE WILL CALL UPON YOU.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Ltd.
Furnishing & Crockery Depts.
THE ARCADE :: :: ECCLESALL ROAD

A Golden Opportunity
30 GUINEAS. 30 GUINEAS

BEDROOM FURNISHED COMPLETE.

SOLID OAK BEDROOM SUITE—3-foot WARDROBE with 2-size Bevel Mirror, DRESSING CHEST with Swing Mirror back, and TALLBOY CHEST. Full size SOLID OAK BEDSTEAD, Raised Side 4-ply Wire MATTRESS, FLOCK MATTRESS, Set Bolster and Two PILLOWS. TOILET and TRUNKET SETS to match. WHITE CANE WICKER CHAIR. Two BEDSIDE ROCKS, reversible, COPPER CUBB for Fireplace. 16 square yards FLOOR CLOTH, painted back.

ALL COMPLETE FOR THIRTY GUINEAS.

ESAY TERMS MAY BE ARRANGED TO SUIT PURCHASER. APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT.

THE BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

have now

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE MILK PASTEURISING PLANT
IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE.

PRESENT WEEKLY OUTPUT IS OVER **14,000 Gallons.**

With our New and Enlarged Plant we have now the capacity to

DOUBLE THIS OUTPUT.

Our MILK is Supplied direct from the **DERBYSHIRE DALES.**

All dust, dirt, and possible disease germs are removed by our Special Pasteurising Process.

PURE RICH MILK OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY ONLY IS SUPPLIED.

Recent experiments have succeeded in extracting 2lbs. of dirt and filth from Milk in one day's supply.

— DO NOT DRINK IMPURE MILK. —

GET THE PUREST AND BEST FROM YOUR OWN SOCIETY.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Grocery Dept.

EXTRACT FROM DIRECTORS' REPORT.

We are pleased to report a gradual but continuous increase in the sales of this department since the half-year end. Competition in the area covered by our society's operations has been very keen, and to obtain the trade of our members we have cut our prices much lower than usual. To a great extent therefore our members have received the benefit over the counter.

We are convinced that price and quality considered our goods compare favourably with those of our competitors.

This department is stocked with a choice selection of commodities of first-class quality, and we appeal to our members to give the society their whole-hearted support, so that it is only by increased turnover that we can bring the working expenses down into proper relation to trade.

GROCERY DEPT.

C.W.S. Tea, Coffee, and Cocoa. CANNOT BE BEATEN

C.W.S. Soaps, Candles, and Tapers.

QUALITY EXCELLENT. PRICES REASONABLE.

C.W.S. Federation Self-raising Flour. Egg and Custard Powders. ALL GOOD LINES.

C.W.S. Crumpsall Biscuits of every description.

PROVISION DEPT.

Danish and New Zealand BUTTER. DIRECT IMPORTATION.

HOME-FED BACON AND HAMS, WILTSHIRE SIDES AND PICNICS. :: Home-rendered and Imported Lard. :: All of the Finest Quality.

C.W.S. Silver Seal and Purple Seal MARGARINE. UNREFINED FOR QUALITY.

Finest Cheshire, Canadian, & New-Zealand CHEESE.

Californian Dried and Tinned FRUITS. ONE OF THE BEST BRANDS STOCKED.

Corned Beef, Tongues, Salmon, and Sardines.