



The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



No. 36.

NOVEMBER, 1925.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000 COPIES.

TWO LOCAL STALWARTS.

ATTERCLIFFE.

Coun. FRED MARSHALL

COUNCILLOR FRED MARSHALL, who is seeking re-election for the Attercliffe Ward, has given fine service to that industrial district. His record of service in the Labour movement dates back to 1910, and he has taken part in every election in Attercliffe, either Parliamentary or Municipal, for the last twenty years. At a time when the work was much more difficult than it is to-day he was addressing meetings, both open-air and indoor, on behalf of the Labour cause.

Elected to the City Council in 1910 by a majority of 2,244, he was re-elected three years later by a majority of nearly 2,000, being the highest majority ever given in Attercliffe to a municipal candidate. His work on the Council on the Highways and Sewerage, Markets, Parliamentary and General Purposes, Old-Age Pensions, and Establishment Committees has shown him to be something more than a speaker. His capacity as an administrator in the City Council is well known amongst Councillors and Corporation officials alike. His association with the National Union of General Workers has been equally serviceable. Again, we remember the tremendous amount of work he has done to organise the lowest-paid workers. He has been president of the Attercliffe branch of that union for twelve years until he became secretary. During his service with that organisation the membership rose from a few hundreds to 30,000 in the Sheffield district.

Mr. Marshall has been a member of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society for the whole of his adult life, and has always been active in advocating the great principles of co-operation, particularly amongst trade unions, where he has done a good deal to secure the banking of trade union funds with the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

No one can hear Marshall without being impressed by his general knowledge, not only of working-class condi-

tions, but in the way of education generally. Starting with very few opportunities, he has used every moment of his spare time in improving his knowledge of economics, literature, &c., in order to fit himself for service for the workers.

The people of Attercliffe should have no hesitation in sending to the City Council a man who has served them well. He has proved that he can be trusted to put their point of view, and at the same time contribute proposals for the improvement of the city and of the Attercliffe Ward. On November and every elector who believes in raising the standard of living and in improving the social conditions of the people should register his or her vote for Fred Marshall.



COUNCILLOR F. MARSHALL.

DARNALL.

Coun. R. H. MINSHALL.

COUNCILLOR R. H. MINSHALL, who is seeking re-election in the Darnall Ward, is one of those candidates whose service and ability gives the lie to Churchill's jibe that "Labour is unfit to govern." His life has been mainly spent in Government service as an officer of the Inland Revenue department, for which reason he has, until comparatively recently, been debarred from identifying himself with politics. Those of us who have known Councillor Minshall for many years past, know full well that his



COUNCILLOR R. H. MINSHALL.

sympathy has always been strongly on the Labour side.

One of the founders of the Customs and Excise Federation—really a trade union—he was for seven years on the national executive of that body. He has been president of the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Destitution, and during the campaign for securing Poor-Law reform, he spoke all over Sheffield in advocacy of the minority report.

He was for many years president of the Sheffield Ethical Society, and has always taken an active part in the Sheffield Federated Health Association, President of the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society, his literary attainments are such as will compare favourably with any public man in the city. To brotherhoods, literary societies, and educational institutions of all kinds, the name of Councillor Minshall is well known.

His record of good sound work for the people is a long and honourable one. Moreover, he is no mushroom convert to Labour; as far back as 1885 he carried a vote in favour of Socialism versus Individualism in a debate in the Paisley Liberal Club. Our friend Minshall is a splendid and convincing speaker on the platform, and an efficient administrator in Committee. His service on the Rates Rota Committee is not so well known publicly, but those of us engaged in social work in the city, know how invaluable that committee is from the workers' point of view, and how much time and service Councillor Minshall gives to this somewhat unthankful job.

The electors of Darnall who have heard Minshall and watched his work will be in no doubt as to which way to vote. To those who have not heard him and are perhaps not so familiar with his work, we should say, first of all, attend his meetings; but in any case, if they are workers—by either hand or brain—they should, without doubt, record their vote and do all that is possible to secure the re-election of Councillor R. H. Minshall.

ATTERCLIFFE DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

HELLO!

The local Labour Party desire to draw your attention to the following **WEEKLY PROGRAMME**—**EVERY SEVENTH EVENING IS A PUBLIC MEETING** will be held.

Nov. 16, First Night for Municipal Election, Capt. J. Gaskell, R. H. Minshall.

Nov. 23, First Night for Municipal Election, Mrs. S. Parnish (Pres.), Miss M. Ann Woodhead, W.P. (Hon. Sec.), Miss O'Connell, E. Shawcross, Miss M. Mary Dwyer, M.P. (Guests' tickets).

Secretary: Mr. W. BARON, 3 H.E. 197, Attercliffe Road.
Secretary: Women's Section: Mrs. J. BARON, 35, Mezza Road.

Every Co-operator and Trade Unionist

should VOTE for

MARSHALL FOR ATTERCLIFFE.

MINSHALL FOR DARNALL.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1925.

BY COUNCILLOR T. H. WATKINS.

Unemployment.

The effect of the Austen Chamberlain policy of deflation in 1920, five years ago, remains a dire affliction. The restriction of credits, by prohibitive cost, has been appalling in its results upon the majority of business people, and, directly and indirectly, all workers.

As industry and trade are conducted by credits, they have been shorn of the means for maintenance. Home consumers have been deprived of the considerable means for maintaining themselves. Hence bankruptcies and insolvency have been unprecedented; also, it is estimated by experts that the national wages bill has been reduced by 250-300 million since 1920.

The improvement and hopefulness that was gaining ground whilst the Labour Government was in office has been totally wiped out by the Tory Government.

All that was done to assist Industry, Trade, Unemployed, Necessitous Areas, has been withdrawn and reversed.

The present Prime Minister now says his party had "never been a party to make promises."

Yet the Tory manifesto at the last election said that "the party would treat the task of grappling with unemployment as a primary obligation."

Following on, in the King's Speech it was said the House of Commons would be "asked to make provision for the continuance and extension of all such measures as are likely to alleviate the present distress." Yet thousands more have become unemployed. Thousands of unemployed are being deprived of the benefits for which they have paid.

These, in turn, have to resort to the Guardians for relief, thereby increasing the local Poor Rates.

In Necessitous Areas the financial obligations and difficulties have multiplied and increased. All that has remained solid and strong—and have, in fact, doubly increased in value since 1920—are loans and interest charges, which are the sacred reserves of vested financial interests, and which take precedence of life, property, industry, and trade, instead of serving them.

Sheffield Union—Financial Position.

The present financial position of the Sheffield Union is as follows:—

Loans raised to September 30th, 1925	£1,266,000
Loans, estimated, October 1st 1925, to March 31st, 1926.	£101,640
Total	£1,367,640
Amount repaid	£600,000
Amount owing	£767,640
The interest charges incurred are—	
Loan interest	£116,886
Interest on bank overdraft	£32,866
Total	£149,752

The interest charged is equal to 25-26 in the pound of the consolidated rate—the exploiting of poverty.

Task Work.

The re-constitution of credits on a gold standard basis and to maintain and retain private financial control of credit issues and interest charges is made to appear to be unconnected with Poor Law relief or task work. Actually, they

are cause and effect. All who are without means, or are denied access to purchasing power by lack of employment, have either to apply for Poor-Law relief or are entitled to Unemployment Insurance. The payments from either source are both based below and upon the absolute minimum standard of subsistence and maintenance, despite unguaranteed, fixed, supplies for the purpose being to reduce the standard of those employed. To test whether men in receipt of relief are generally desirous of working, the Citizens' Party on the Council are bringing this matter over to the Guardians for their purpose. The Corporation are to arrange for the application of Workmen's Compensation, also endeavour to arrange with the Government for insurance stamps to be placed on the men's cards.

The Guardians are to employ the men at trade union rates of pay for the number of hours necessary to absorb the definite standard of relief allowed. Thus the so-called unemployables (estimated to be 5 per cent) are to be weeded out, and those judged worthy of being re-habilitated are still to be deprived of the additional means necessary to enable them to attain a better standard of living.

The Corporation is providing supervision and tools, in addition to the schemes of work.

The schemes are such as should become subject to the grant of 60 per cent (i.e., 25 in the pound) from the Government Unemployed Grants Committee.

The Corporation now say the grant is not to be applied for.

No effort will be made by the Corporation or the Guardians to supplement the hours of work, and thus the earnings of those employed.

The destitution standard is to be imposed and maintained.

This question, and the general question of relief schemes, must be raised in Parliament to arrange for the provision of schemes of work, with immediate financial grants, and full financial grants, from the Government, to absorb the unemployed under trade union conditions to enable them to rehabilitate themselves, which finance and industry under private control have and are still failing to accomplish.

Position of the Poor.

177,142 summonses, costing 3s. 6d. each, have recently been issued for work arrears. The arrears date back to the year following 1920, and the consequent withdrawal of purchasing power. As the result of the efforts of the Labour Group, a Rota Committee has been established to consider all cases of rate arrears due to necessity or lack of sufficient income.

Bare subsistence standard has become so general that arrangements are now necessary to elicit information as to income before distraints or summonses are issued, if further hardships are to be prevented.

The cases that arise are most distressing.

Corporation Finance.

Civic debt, or loans, £15,000,000 of which £12,000,000 is in trading departments, and £3,000,000 is in non-trading departments.

Value of civic assets (actual or estimated), £20,000,000.

Interest charges for one year, ending March 31st, 1925, amounts to £760,119, which is equal to 6s. 8d. in the pound of the consolidated rate, and represents one cause of the large sums taken from the trading departments in relief of the rates.

Ratable value, 1925-6, £4,499,400.
Expenditure, 1925-6, £1,417,293.
Excess of a rate, 6s. 8d.

Comparison with Leeds for year ending March, 1925, shows:—

Ratable value, £1,954,661.
Expenditure, £1,686,432.
Excess of a rate, 12s. 11.5d.

The rates levied in Sheffield for year 1925 were: 10s. 11d. City Rate, 5s. 4d. Poor Rate.

The total amount received from the rates in Leeds was in excess of that received in Sheffield, owing to the production of a rate, being almost £2,000 more in Leeds than is received in Sheffield, although the rates charged in Leeds are lower than the rates charged in Sheffield.

It will be observed that the abnormal subsidies taken from the Sheffield trading departments are also to subsidize the Sheffield Poor Rates. The loans contracted by the Sheffield Poor-Law Union prove that their Poor Rates level do not cover the abnormal Poor-Law expenses.

Electric Supply Department.

The interest paid in this department from 1925 to 1925 amounts to £980,659 (figures prior to 1925 are not shown in the accounts of this department).

Paid in relief of the rates from 1920 to 1925, £220,834.

Trowans and Motors Department.

The interest paid in the department from 1925 to 1925 amounts to £393,275. Paid in relief of the rates from 1920 to 1925, £504,000.

Water Department.

Interest paid since 1888 to 1925 amounts to £7,803,567, and is still running! Still in debt!

Watered capital is proverbially lucrative.

Private interests were even more grasping in 1888.

Payments in relief of rates from this department are prevented by Act of Parliament.

Housing.

Mr. Charles Whistley, M.P. (late Minister of Health), in introducing the Wheatley Housing Act, exposed the true character of finance in its connection with the rents of houses.

He pointed out that on a rent of 5s. 0d. per week the costs are made up as follows:—

Per week.	
Land	0 12
Materials and profit	1 10
Labour	1 5
Moneylenders	5 0
Total	9 9

Tenders and contracts having increased the increased subsidy from £75 to £112 10s. per house under the Wheatley Act

has been absorbed by increased cost of materials (prices of which were not controlled owing to Labour being defeated).

Further, the rents have been propped up with the rents charged under the previous Chamberlain Act, and the old rents maintained.

Policy.

Reductions in electricity charges by 10 per cent. and 5 per cent. have been obtained by pressure of the Labour Group. Reductions in tram fares to 10d. for children and extended distances for 2d. fares were likewise obtained.

Reductions to minimum charges in every direction are only possible by a change in financial policy.

Restrictions are imposed by the present financial monopoly, which imposes high interest charges, with reduced purchasing power, thereby crippling industry and creating poverty.

The financial monopoly retards necessary progress and development in education, elementary and secondary, health regulations and sanitation, Blind Persons Act, mental hospitals, housing, slum clearance, markets and abattoirs, town planning and improvements, future enterprises, &c.

Constant is the cry, "Where is the money to come from?"

Yet private monopolists of credit are encouraged by gifts of enormous private profits.

VOTE FOR CO-OPERATION AND LABOUR, AND SECURE PUBLIC CREDITS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.

— TO PREVENT PROFITEERING IS TO PREVENT POVERTY.

—Egarrta Special.

TIMEX was an old man of Madrid, Who six sixty-five years bit a quid,
When they asked, "Are you least?"
He replied, "No, I ain't,
But I don't feel as well as I did."

He Cut Members.
"No, sis, ah don't zeeber zide on dem things," said an old negro pointing to a mouldboard. "Why, de other day, I see Bactus Johnson git one and fite a whole lotta 'ee weeth, an' git off at de very same place he got on at. So I see to him, 'Bactus, I see 'you've spent 'oo money,' I see, 'but where've 'oo been?'"

A Wassy Whiffo!
Constant is each other for the first time for months.

"Hallo, Bill, you are a stranger," said one. "Why, what's wrong? You don't look at all well."

"It's other poked his hand wearily across his brow."

"'E's work what's getting me down," he said. "Work from eight in the morning till six at night, and only one hour off. Think of it!"

"'Fare chap," sympathized the other, "and how long 'ave you been there?"

"I ain't been there yet," explained the other sadly. "I start to-morrow!"

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NEVER TWICE THE SAME!

On November 22nd, a Romanian, Mr. Andreo Che, will speak on "Uniting the Nations Through Esperanto."

He will speak in Esperanto, and Mr. J. W. Macintyre (President of the British Esperanto Association) will translate his address.

ESPERANTO. ESPERANTO. ESPERANTO. ESPERANTO.

DOCTOR CO-OPTICUS GIVES GOOD ADVICE.

Like a good doctor, I have been going round the wards lately, and I have to report that the temperature of the patient (the patient electorate) is steadily going up, and bids fair to bust the thermometer by polling day. The nurses thermometer by polling day, but their consciences assiduously, but there seems no disposition to keep the patient quiet.

BRIGHTSIDE.

In Brightside Councillor C. W. Beardsley (of the N.J.F.) is so thoroughly resigned to another three years' hard work for the electors, but hopes to get a record majority this time. Councillor Frank Womersley is another of the Labour brigade who entered the Council at the first election after the war, and if only his supporters work as hard as last time, he will only leave the floor of the chamber to sit in the seats of the mighty with Billy Wardley on the aldermanic bench. He fancies himself as a cicletier in Firth Park. His municipal score after November 2nd should be: "nine seats, not out."

ATTERCLIFFE.

Young in years, Councillor Fred Marshall, who holds the workers' standard in Attercliffe, has a very worthy service to his credit in the Council. He has a lifetime of public service before him, and should go far. In debate he is without a superior in his quiet "marshalling" of the facts in concise, incisive, argument.

NEEPSAND.

The first case I found was in Neepsand, where the patient has been suffering for some years from an intermittent fever of retching Liberalism, sometimes called sleeping sickness, because the victim shows no sign of life whatever. Two doses of co-operation have been administered lately by Councillors Bancroft and Watkins, and on November 2nd a final cure will be effected by our old friend Jack Longles. Every patient elector is invited to attend at the surgery, and to drop his pill in the ballot-box. When Longles is a councillor Neepsand will have a doughty trio of co-operators to safeguard their interests, rights, and privileges.

DARNALL.

Darnall did a good thing for itself when it made Councillor R. H. Minshall its representative. It will do a better when it sends him back, as I expect it will, with a four figure majority. As Labour representative on three important committees like the Watch, Education, and Finance Committees, he is one of the hardest-worked councillors, but still finds

time to be an Overseer, president of the I.L.P., worker in dozens of other organisations, and a constant propagandist for the Labour movement. His opponent is a mild and harmless nonentity, who must be taught by a big majority the full extent of his foibles.

PARK.

There is a bonny scrap pending in the Park, where Councillor Charles Gust Colquhoun is sent against a strong Coalitionist. "Charley" himself is a jolly fighter, and it is up to every worker in the ward to do his or her bit to back the Discipline in the work for people of the Park, where he has lived so long. He has done three years of yeoman service to hundreds of his constituents, who have never appealed in vain.



The Patient has been suffering for some years.

HEELY.

Another tough struggle centres round Councillor Southern in Heely, which he won for Labour for the first time. Southern is not a new-comer to the movement, and he ought to be encouraged in his bent for civic service.

SHARROW.

People said a Labour candidate would never be returned for Sharrow, but they were wrong. WMA state persistency Councillor "Jimmy" Havat hammered away year after year, until he was returned three years ago. Like a lot of good fellows, whether it be for his own post office workers, the Sheffield Sunday School Union, of which he is secretary, or the Labour Party. He is now engaged on the task of convincing his opponent that as the poet sings, "the course of True love does not run smooth."

ECLESALL.

Things are very blue in aristocratic Ecclesall Ward, where the Citizens' "Ass" is not allowed to bray by the anti-democratic forces, whose nominee shows his contempt for Liberals by openly coming out as a Conservative and "Nunn other." The Coalition carrot is saved for the citizens ass in other parts of the city, where it is not convenient to parade the reality of unshamed reaction.

Ernest Hobson, a prominent religious worker in the district, has promised to take up the challenge for the more enlightened portion of the electorate, and deserves your support and help. Comic relief may be provided by Mr. Albert Taylor, the tuppenny tube tobacconist, who wants to build underground tunnels. I hereby make him a present of Totley railway tunnel for the duration of the campaign.

HALLAM.

Mrs. Cumming, who has a fine record of social useful work, will tackle Hallam again. She should have the special help of the women workers in the district.

CROOKSMOOR.

The "White" Guards are crouching in Crooksmoor, where Ernest Rowlinson is confident that the workers will right the mistake they made last year through over-confidence. Every vote must be polled this time if Crooksmoor is to send Rowlinson back with a majority that will show his opponent the way to go home. Es-servicemen should make a point of one of their old comrades who has fought for them on the City Council

and in the War Pensions Committee. Make no mistake about it this time.

ST. PHILIP'S.

Everybody in St. Philip's should be alive by now that it was a mistake to send a dumb man either to be a councillor or a guardian. Mr. Warren, the retiring Coalition councillor, has now been playing that thrilling wordless drama "The Years of Silence, or if Those Lips Could Only Speak," for three years too long. Jim Sweeney, a capable trade union leader, hopes to give Mr. Warren a rest to save him from the dire consequences of clergyman's sore throat, a fall disease that attacks great orators like Mr. Warren that attacks great orators like Mr. Warren that attacks great orators like Mr. Warren. Put your vote on Sweeney.

ST. PETER'S.

While we are among the saints one ought to remember the martyr of St. Peter's—Councillor Jack, who will not be standing for the Coalition. I wonder

if he has been too independent in voting with the wicked Co-operative and Labour Parties from time to time? Anyhow, his mantle has been offered to gent. name the Wills ("Will" where art thou?). Attercliffe reject, of course.

Albert Wrigley, the painters' leader, is bringing his brushes along to St. Peter's, which sadly needs a new tint of paint applying. If you vote straight for Wrigley you can assist in putting on the first coat.

BROOMHALL.

Broomhall has Herbert Sweeting, of the A.E.U., as a candidate. He has a big job to tackle, but if everybody pulls their weight he can repeat Jack Skelton's success. Sweeting is a thorough trier always, and will turn out a winner in the end.

WALKLEY.

Jack Skelton, by the way, is fighting Walkley against a lonely relic left by the receding tide of an outworn "Liberalism." Skelton wants to get back to the work of clearing out Sheffield's disgraceful shambles. It is his pet subject, and nobody on the Council has brighter ideas about the problem than he has. Walkley must send him along to help our friend Councillor Spencer.

HILLSBOROUGH.

A veteran Co-operator and Labour representative, Alf Barton, is to carry the flag of the people's cause in Hillsborough for the Co-operative Party. Alf Barton has rare civic experience, for he is a former chairman of the Libraries Committee, and at present a leading member of the Adult Education Sub-committee. He fights fearlessly and fair. Let him fight for your interests in the city as he has done in the past. Hillsborough needs the banner itself by electing such a distinguished pioneer of the forward movement.

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Sheffield Cooperator.

NOVEMBER, 1925.

CO-OPERATION AND
THE MUNICIPALITY.

In a few days' time the municipal elections will take place, and every co-operator should realise that too much importance cannot be attached to the election of the local City Council. Parliament may make its laws, good or bad. The Government Departments concerned—the Home Office, the Ministry of Health, or any other "bureau"—may issue orders, insist upon inelusive and irritating methods, or jammer progressive efforts; but they within the existing power, and notwithstanding the rest of the Government offices, municipal councils have power, if they have the will, to do much to brighten the lives of the citizens.

Needless to say, the City Council has to be kept up to scratch by the pressure of public opinion. Sheffield has its own particular problems which the citizens cannot handle without proper regard to the needs of the city. Co-operative co-operators should desire to see the co-operative principle and co-operative methods applied to all the essential undertakings of the city. Co-operative efforts have successfully combined to supply themselves with groceries and clothing, furnishings, fuel, and milk. The advantages that they have gained by their collective effort in these directions are indicated by their attitude with regard to reducing the price of bread. These advantages should inspire them with a desire to see wiser methods administered from municipal administration, and the advantages of co-operative effort derived from the supply of other necessities.

The cry for economy so influenced earlier Governments that schemes of useful work, recommended to Ministerial departments, were shelved because of the costs. This was particularly so for some called "dole" was provided instead of wages to men willing to work. If only part of that money paid to men and women doing nothing had been used to capitalise useful schemes of public utility, both rates and taxes would have been much lighter than they are to-day; and labour, much of which is now physically unfit for employment, would have been kept healthier and efficient, and would to-day be a greater source of communal wealth than it is.

During the next few days the reactionary Press will be clamouring for the application of the economy axe, and for the execution of the "down rates" pledges from municipal candidates. Co-operators must guard against the success of such a campaign. They understand what economy means; they know that money well spent is money earned; they know that true economy is not mere miserliness; they know that municipal undertakings should all be directed to the improvement of the physical and moral tone of the community, and on this occasion they should vote for the Co-operative and Labour candidates, who are the true economists, whose object is to stimulate the pride of community, raise the ideal of social achievement, and administer the affairs of the city in such wise as will effect the greatest good for the greatest number.

HOME NOTES.

By "PATRICIA."

Jan November elections are upon us again and much will be said regarding the candidates in the local Press. It behooves every citizen to be well informed on these matters, and to do his best to find the best man for the year in and year out, and that in reality they are only persons who will be called "Citizens" will promise you anything if it will prevent him with a seat in the council.

To women in the small circle of the home it is perhaps hard to realise how extensive are the affairs of the city, and how they are going to influence the citizens. The council may seem a long way off; perhaps it is only reminded of its existence by the November elections, but in reality its work comes very close to her in the home. First, there is housing, the strictly housing question, but also drainage, property improvement, inspection, and demolition of old buildings to be rebuilt and made into the streets nearby. The provision of new houses is a city's responsibility; new houses built to endure, with labor-saving fittings and a little period at a reasonable rate; the provision of quick and cheap travelling by tram, buses, &c., and from the river estuary. The lighting of streets, street cleaning, sewage and rubbish disposal—on an efficient system by up-to-date methods—regulation of bus, slaughterhouses, police services, fire brigades, and so on, all these things are the work of the city, and the life of the home very closely. They can be managed well or managed according to the spirit of the men and women on the council.

Mr. William Mellor, a great speaker, recently said: "No matter what city one visits one could find parts of it which are not far from being things to be avoided. It is that nature of Sheffield." And yet Mr. "Citizen" has promised, considering those terrible districts we know exist in your part!

Labour and Co-operative nominees will come before the electors during this week in October with comprehensive schemes for dealing with the city's needs, its evils, and misdoings. Women should vote Labour or Co-operative and help them to put their ideas into practice.

Education that has for so long been dominated by a few of the old school in Sheffield, must be freed, and a wider view taken. Education should be a narrow education, but limited, and rarely draws out the inventive child; it tends to "mass production," because the idea behind it is for every child to make them "good, willing, obedient workers." We are told every day by the men to be quiet boys and girls, to let our superiors have the best of everything, and thus we shall be all right. But that is not the way, especially for women, are beginning to say: "This would be a nice world if we had our proper share which has been so long withheld, and which the richer and the poor got poorer." Therefore, we want equality of opportunity for every child, and we want to see the best men for the Labour and Co-operative candidates, who believe in equality of opportunity.

Health again is a municipal concern and a national one, too. The treatment of infectious diseases and consumption, medical and dental treatment for school children, infant welfare, care of the insane and the aged—these are urgent matters which should concern every citizen. Public provision of the health of the school children examined was in need of medical treatment for serious defects, and many cases of ill health were treated. And yet there are sixty-four councils in the country who do not have medical and dental inspection in the schools.

The spending of the city's purse is of vast importance to taxpayers. Public provision, such as Poor-Law, schools, care of the aged, &c., cost money, which is levied on the citizen as a rate. But these are public services such as tramways, gas, water, electricity, &c. Labour can manage and relieve the citizen, and Co-operative speakers will advocate the overhauling of more revenue-earning services in the community. Why should the ratepayer be taxed with non-essential services which private owners reap profit out of other taxpayers? Why should the ratepayer be taxed to run by the community? If we can run tramways, why not our milk and bread supply? Co-operation is a step to communal ownership. The workers have joined together to buy the lumpy, to make their bread, and their electricity. These things are all well, but what the whole community do it as well?

We own our parks, our streets. I do not see a fence round my little pavement. I do not see any work put in my house. Why do we not do it? Let the community own the land, the houses, and eliminate private profit.

Labour and Co-operative speakers hold the ideal that the community in general should be better off than they are, and that they should turn their backs on their old ideas and help the city for the good and comfort of all the citizens. Your vote is needed.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS.

REVIEW OF LATEST CO-OPERATIVE FIGURES.

WHATEVER was happening in other trades, the co-operative movement was employing 8,924 more persons at the end of 1924 than at the end of 1923: the distributive societies of the country showed an increase of 133,672 members over 1923; the share capital of the distributive societies showed an increase of £4,854,573; loan capital an increase of £1,276,371; and reserve and insurance funds an increase of £220,046. The amount owing to societies by members for goods was £27,924 less than in 1924. The trade of the retail societies in Great Britain and Ireland show an increase of £5,587,981. The profits or surplus showed an increase of £3,905,394, whilst £15,574 more was granted for educational purposes.

These are the gratifying facts disclosed by the official statistics compiled by the Co-operative Union, and published recently. The figures quoted above relate only to the retail distributive societies, and, in view of the general air of depression which prevailed during last year, and still continues, it is splendid to be able to record such signs of progress.

Membership of all types of societies throughout the United Kingdom has increased by 133,877 from 4,618,810 to 4,752,686. This is the greatest increase for one year since 1910.

The membership, it will be noted, for the first time exceeds four-and-three-quarter millions. It used to be reckoned that the co-operative purchasing members represented a family of five, but, in view of the growing tendency for more than one member of the family to join the store it is taken that the purchasing member now represents a family of four, the four-and-three-quarter millions represent a community of sixteen millions served by the distributive co-operative societies.

An interesting feature of the review, in so far as it affects membership, shows the number of retail societies in each county, the total number of members in each county, and the percentage of membership to the population. The last census figures available for 1921, in which year the percentage of co-operative membership to the total population of England and Wales was 20.37, show that county with the highest record is Northampton with 20.43 co-operative members to every 100 of the population.

Across the Border.

For the whole of Scotland the total

co-operative membership represents a powerful example of a co-operative county, having 34.62 per cent. of the population enjoying membership with the co-operative societies. Sitting and Selkirk, in that order, are the two counties with 21.91 and 21.69 respectively, followed by Dumbarton with 20.02.

In so far as share capital is concerned, the average holding per member for the whole Union is £17.06. The North-Western Section and the North-Eastern Section show the greatest evidence of wealth, according to this measure, for their averages are respectively £19.80 and £19.37 per member.

The total share and loan capital of the retail societies amounts to £69,053,948.

The reduction in the debts of members to these societies is small, but gratifying. The total amount due was £2,899,110, a reduction of about £28,000.

The trade of the societies reached £175,077,825, or an average of £37.23 per member. Scotland again stands at the top, with £53.93 per member, the Northern and Western sections following next in order with £43.49 and £40.72. The debt, viewed in the light of these returns, does not seem very high, but it hampers some societies.

Scotland's trade is roughly about £1 per week per member. If that average were reached all over, the trade of the whole of the societies would reach the aggregate of £247,037,072; or £1,959,247 more than the total for 1924.

The total profits of the distributive societies amounted to £15,539,607.

Productives and Wholesale.

The records of 205 productive societies, with 37,696 members, show a trade of £5,492,669, which was a surplus of £1,517,734, and gave employment to 11,368 workers, whose wages bill amounted to £1,338,353. Supply Associations, of which there are four, did a trade of £1,676,217; and eight special societies had a turnover of £5,524,810. Distributive federations, ten in number, had an aggregate trade of £285,677.

The C.W.S. increased its share capital by £462,943, its loan capital by £2,357,772, and trade by £6,582,498; while the N.C.W.S. increased its position under the same headings by £28,758, £662,178, and £20,366. The Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society also increased in capital and trade as a result of the year's operations.

FACTS FOR ELECTORS.

Government Creates Unemployment.

Mr. J. Maynard Keynes, the great economist, says world trade and home consumption are both remarkably good, assuming on a level level midway between slump and boom. The aggregate world production is probably greater than at any time since 1914. The cause of the serious unemployment is the Government's decision to please the bankers by going back to the gold standard. Mr. Maynard Keynes says—

"Now, we know as a fact that the value of sterling money abroad has been raised by 10 per cent, while its purchasing power over British Labour has increased by 10 per cent. The present trouble of our export industries are the inevitable and predictable consequences of it. Mr. Churchill's policy of improving the exchange by 10 per cent, was sooner or later, a policy of reducing everyone's wages by 25, in the pound."

As wages go down, the value of gold goes up, and the National Debt holders, for example, with the same amount of money, can buy a larger amount of goods and labour.

According to the "Economist," the average rate of ordinary dividend paid during the past twelve months was 9.9, as against 9.5 a year ago.

Direct Labour.

The Citizens' Party are in favour of private contracting, and opposed to direct labour by a Corporation Works Department.

Labour in Power in Queensland.

We hear a lot of the terrible results that would follow the advent of Labour to power. This is what Mr. James Larmie, the Queensland Minister for Railways, says about what has happened in Queensland—

"Instead of depression and disaster there has been—despite the war and post-war effects—a period of material prosperity unequalled in the history of the State. Some of the wonderful results, compared with pre-Labour days, can be summarised as follows—"

- Record Bank Assets.
- Record Bank Deposits.

- Record Number of Depositors
- Record Bank Advances.
- Record Bank Investments.
- Record Favourable Trade Balance.
- Record Ailuring Production.
- Record Agricultural Production.
- Record Secondary Industry Production.
- Record Wealth Production—General.
- Record Total Wealth.
- Record Income.
- Record Population.
- Record Building Boom.
- Record Material Prosperity.
- Fewer Insolvents.

A series of wonderful records, surely they may be verified by reference to State statistics. As they prove the magnificent success of Labour rule, and overwhelmingly refute chronic croakers and doleful defamers.

Since the return to the gold standard the Bank of England has made the record profit of £69,888, exceeding even that of 1914 by £7,000.

The Citizens' Party consists of men and women who support this policy for the enrichment of the rich and the impoverishment of the poor.

Municipal Banking.

Banking ought to be under national control, with municipal branches, but the Tory Government, backed up by the Citizens' Party, refuse even to consider a municipal savings bank, although it would enable the municipality to borrow cheaper and keep down the rates. There is only one municipal bank in this country, namely, at Birmingham. It is most successful. This is what Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Minister for Health, says about it—

"In September, 1919, they had something like 30,000 depositors, and about £35,000 deposits. To-day the depositors have increased to 167,000, whilst the deposits were upwards of £5,300,000. The bank had not lost the ratepayers a penny from start to finish, and it had a reserve of £38,000."

The bank had hit upon an institution which was peculiarly adapted to municipal administration, with a sense of security and possessing the means of reaching the public. He was informed that the bank was able to place at the disposal of the City Treasurer a sum of something like £2,500,000. Under the system of advances to those desirous of owning their own houses nearly £1,000,000 had already been advanced.

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

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Furnishing Department,

STANFORTH ROAD AND FIR VALE.

A Choice Range of

QUARTERED MAHOGANY SIDEBOARDS

Now on View in our Showrooms.

Prices from £10.



OUR NEW SEASON'S GOODS

are now on show in FANCY GOODS, JEWELLERY, &c.

Special Discount Sale in November
of 1s. in the £, and BONUS.

TOYLAND commences on November 27th. Come—and bring your children. ADMISSION FREE, at Stanforth Rd.

FOOTWEAR
FOR GENTS AND BOYS.

Holyoake
: Brand :

IS THE MOST RELIABLE.

TRADE UNION STAMP No. 8.

Can be purchased from any co-operative shoe Department in Sheffield.

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY THE
KETTERING CO-OPERATIVE BOOT SOCIETY,

HAYLOCK WORKS, KETTERING.

CULCETH 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 Culceth Station, Great Central Railway; twenty-five minutes from Kenyon Junction, London and North-Western Railway.

Terms: Bowling, Club Golf, Croquet, Billiards. Near to Kenyon Golf Links.

For particulars apply: Mrs. E. BROWN, Managers, Culceth Hall, Newchurch, nr. Warrington, or Secretary, Co-operative Society, LEIGH, LANCs. Telephone, 26 Culceth.



FIRE!

SATURDAY noon. High-street is busy with traffic, the footpaths are crowded with people gazing at the shops or hurrying in either direction intent upon their business; moaning or alighting from trams, and still more people are dodging vehicles and crossing the roadway.

Suddenly there is a distant clangour which grows louder every second; and everybody knows at once what it means. The fire engine is coming! The best-designed and most up-to-date scientific instrument, as efficient for its work as any man can make it, and built almost regardless of cost, with a crew of picked men trained for a particular purpose, is taking the shortest possible route at the quickest possible speed to the scene of fire. Every second matters—certainly to property, and perhaps to life.

But the citizens are trained, too. The first sound of the fire engine's warning bell has been sufficient; perhaps a souse of fear has struck their hearts which has produced the one necessary response—they get out of the way. The city council and the fire brigade have no doubt helped in this training of the citizens by treating fire as an urgent and fearfully-important matter; and perhaps in this they have done better than they knew. In any event, foot passengers clear from the roadway; tram passengers proceed slowly, ready to stop instantly if there is the least uncertainty; motor and horse traffic get out of the way. No Rolls-Royce makes itself an obstacle any more than does a "Tin Lizzie." The business-man, the very life and movement of the whole route comes to a halt; the one dominating purpose is to clear a sure way for the succour that is hastening to the place of need.

Everything is entirely subordinated to the safety and speed of the fire engine. It is as though in every citizen's soul the cry of human need were heard in that fearful clangour of the firebell, and all gave spontaneously what help they could to the means of salvation. The busiest city thoroughfare at its busiest moment has a deserted hush running right along it!

Citizenship.
Now there is in that simple and familiar incident the very pith of citizenship and of politics. We "hold up" the city and civilisation, business is not "as usual," private ends must all wait; because somewhere there is a socially recognised need that must not wait; and it is a glory of our city that our whole corporate resources for dealing with the emergency are hurried to the

spot. At that moment, High-street knows but two things in the whole universe: a danger and a means of stopping it. As fast as engine can follow engine they will go as needed—and we rightly have a thrill of pride, and maybe a throbb of emotion. It is justified. We have shown here a thing ought to be done, and decided it is going to be done that way. The motor car of a wealthy man would be in danger if it took chances along the line of route, its if he willfully got in the way on no matter what pressing business, and he would be looked upon as a lunatic (rightly) if he made a poisonous protest in the middle of High-street about the need for economy involving fewer fire engines and less horse-power. He might (if the gods were kind) be run over. And the very slightest sign of hindrance on his part would rouse a buzz of antagonism from all the spectators, even if he were the Lord High Executioner himself!

Charity.

Imagine, if you can, some well-fed and comfortable citizen (whose own house is not in fire) objecting to the fire brigade trying to save all the house, or all the inmates. Waving his arms in righteous passion, he might say (as he very often does): "Why spend all this money to provide three fire engines? Save the attics by all means, use Corporation employees, and Corporation money to preserve them—and even the bedrooms, too, at a pinch—but you will kill that magnificent virtue called Charity if you don't leave the ground floor to such private aid as is forthcoming. Besides, the folk whose houses are on fire ought to save the wash kitchens themselves, or we shall weaken the self-reliance of the people."

Now fire is such a spectacularly horrible thing when it is out of control that a speech of that kind would never get a single hand held up in support. We are chicken with the terror of the thing; the lurid fogs of flame; the staring disaster that must be stopped as easily as men can stop it.

Other Fires Raging in Sheffield.

Yet there are other fires raging in Sheffield towards which we have no such corporate attitude. We do not hasten with help, and there are those

"citizens who do stand in public place" with their hands up, in horror at the "lack of self-reliance," the crushing-out of the chance for "private charity," warning us that we must "cut our coat according to our cloth."

Where are these people? On the platforms of the Citizens' Party; they are the candidates of that party!

Fire is a fearful thing; it wastes and it threatens further waste. But just as fire is a fearful thing, so are overcrowding, slums, high rents, lack of educational opportunity, disease, and unemployment. They all waste LIFE; not merely by ultimately destroying it, but by degrading it, and making it a misery instead of a joy. They all threaten further waste, for the whole community suffers by the existence of these things, and may pass on its suffering to the children as yet unborn.

The policy of the Co-operative and Labour Parties is based on the truth of this, and they would see, and will work for, as efficient and rapid an organisation for dealing with these horrors which are like fires in the midst of the city.

Housing.

We have, in Sheffield, for example, hundreds of families living in one room. There is a very real fire—wasteful and consuming—in the case of every such family. [And whilst that is so, one can find in the advertisement columns of a Sheffield newspaper, this year, the following—

Cottages for sale, paying 30 per cent., dedicated, W.C.'s, cheap!]

This is a waste of life, for men and women—and children—living under those conditions can know nothing of life such as is possible in a decent home. It is a threat to the whole city in that it very naturally tends to lower the physique and morale of those who are compelled to live in such crowded circumstances; and it is a threat specially to the health of the community. Were an epidemic of real violence to break out, we could not treat it as quickly and efficiently as we do a fire. We have not the engines to do it quick.

What we want to see is that whenever a case of any sort of "break out" we have the full resources of the city ready to cope with it urgently. Co-operative and Labour candidates are

not put-up merely to go "one better" than Citizen councillors, but to shape towards a stirring of the conscience of the people of Sheffield, to develop a corporate consciousness that they may recognise that any sort of real need is as wasteful as a fire, and ought to be dealt with as sanely, with all the energies and assistance that a city can get together.

Here, maybe, is a youth who is suddenly discovered to be in the early stages of consumption. It is true we do something for him, but our own Medical Officer of Health has pointed out that the ultimate thrusting back of such poor folk into slum surroundings unless all that has hitherto been done.

Cutting the Cloth.

Very little of this kind can be said before some "Citizen" or other will cry out that "we must cut our coat according to our cloth." They will be cutting their coats at the Cutlers' Feast about the time that this appears, and it will look as though "cloth" were plentiful enough in some places. The fact is that whilst most homes have very little "cloth," a considerable number have still spare rolls of it that they do not wish, to see cut up, especially for the service of their unfortunate fellow citizens.

The shocking state of housing, the insufficient means of secondary education, the widespread unemployment, the inadequate treatment of the consumptives in the city, and the shortage of hospital accommodation imposed on us by those who would rather have inefficiency than suffer private charity to be stayed—all these are fierce fires in the life of the community. They waste, and they threaten: A sensible city would treat them all as though they were fires, and quench them by social action. That is what co-operation stands for—as does Labour.

In fact, it is co-operation: the co-operation of citizens in the common interest.

Property or Life?

Surely it can hardly be that Sheffield is efficient in dealing with fires, which destroy property; but slacks, meagre, and complaining about these other ills because they only destroy life? Well, the doubt will be removed when life gets the attention that property certainly gets. Make your Sheffield Fire service your ideal for your health and hospital service, your housing and education and unemployment service—and you can begin to be proud of Sheffield all through.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

FIRE!

"Smooth Brights" House Coals
35/- PER TON,
DELIVERED FREE.

COAL DEPARTMENT.

If you want a real one delivered free,
Try our SPECIAL LINE.

The Hottest Ever. No Slack. No Dust.
Lights Quickly. Free Burning. Brown Ash.

Absolutely "IT."

FOR FULL PARTICULARS OF OTHER QUALITIES, ALL AT KEEN PRICES, APPLY AT BRANCHES.

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GROCERY and PROVISION Depts.

C.W.S. Tea, Coffee, and Cocoa. CANBEST 85
HEATEN.

C.W.S. Soaps, Candles, and Tapers.
QUALITY EXCELLENT. PRICES REASONABLE.

C.W.S. Federation Self-raising Flour. : Egg
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C.W.S. Crumpsall Biscuits of every description.
Danish and Canadian BUTTER.
DIRECT IMPORTATION

Special Value in CANADIAN BUTTER.
PLEASE TRY IT AND SAVE MONEY.

HOME-FED BACON AND HAMS, WILTSHIRE
SIDES AND PICNICS. :: Home-rendered and
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C.W.S. Silver Seal and Purple Seal MARGARINE.
UNSURPASSED FOR QUALITY.

Finest Cheshire, Canadian, & New Zealand CHEESE.
Californian Dried and Tinned FRUITS.
ONLY THE BEST BRANDS STOCKED.

Corned Beef, Tongues, Salmon, and Sardines,

SPECIAL LINE.

TRY

Middleton Tinned Dessert Fruit.

GOLDEN PLUM, VICTORIA PLUM, STRAWBERRY
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ALSO TRY OUR

Luscious Tinned Loganberries (*Lokreal
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Arcade Boot Department.

TRY US FOR YOUR

NEW DRESS SHOES,

Patent, Gold Tinted,
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or Flowered Brocade,

In all the LATEST DESIGNS,
at VERY LOW PRICES.

LADIES', GIRLS', AND
BOYS' FOOTWEAR.

Sperope Brand :

MADE UNDER TRADE
UNION CONDITIONS.
STAMP No. 12.

STOCKED BY ALL CO-OPERATIVE
BOOT DEPARTMENTS IN SHEFFIELD.



BREAKFAST IS BOUNTIFUL WHEN IT'S C.W.S.

ONE can afford more and better Bacon, the Tea
is delicious, Butter has thriftier Flavour, Bread
is more reliable as well as cheaper, the Cream,
Oats Porridge gives greater satisfaction; even C.W.S.
Salt and Mustard cost less! The home that relies
on C.W.S. Productions always has a big advantage.

This big advantage is not the result of a "dog-in-
the-manger" policy. Co-operation is open to all,
king or commoner, peer, or peasant, working class or
middle class, man or woman. Pay your shilling
entrance fee, join the local Co-operative Society,
and then

BUY C.W.S. PRODUCTIONS!

LONG HAIR'S APPEAL—WEAR A FLANDERS PUPPY ON REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11th.

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
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Men's and Youths' High-Grade Footwear

The "Blandford" Brand

WALKING, TENNIS, CRICKET, BOAT
GOLF, FOOTBALL.

Leather or
Gruel Rubber
Soles.



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

Manufactured by the
Midland Boot Manufacturers Ltd.
WELLINGBOROUGH.

"Integrity" BRAND HOSIERY

Gives an air of distinction to the wearer.
The Reliable Co-operative Make.

From the Drapery
and Outfitting
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your Society.

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Wigston Hosiery
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Look for the "Beaver"
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