

than usual as we are circulating it in a special form, but calculating it privately to the subscribers. Our readers should note carefully both the income and expenditure sides of this interesting document.

SHEFFIELD RATEPAYERS' ECONOMIC SURVEY COMMITTEE.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

To payments to Sir William Geary (President, Sheffield Citizens' Association)	1,000 0 0
To payments to Mr. S. T. Robinson (Treasurer, Sheffield Citizens' Association)	900 0 0
To subscription to Sheffield Citizens' Association (Women's Branch)	21 0 0
To various expenses (November)	100 2 0
To various expenses (for elections from 1923 to 1924)	35 17 6
To insurance of motor-cars (for November)	43 13 0
To Clerical assistance (general provision for use of staff of S.D.E.A.)	38 19 3
To travelling expenses (representatives to London of members of Sheffield Branch of D.C.C. Committee)	30 6 0
To Stationery and postage	25 4 8
To Telephone, telegrams, etc.	5 4 0
To Cheque book	10 5 8
To Sundries	10 5 8
To Honorarium to T. Goddard (Master (temporary) for year to July, 1925)	20 5 0
To Rent of meeting-rooms	0 10 0
Total	£3,258 0 2
Income.	
Alma and Co. Ltd., Edgar	20 0 0
Aspley Ltd., J.	5 0 0
Brown and Co. Ltd., John	200 0 0
Balfour and Co. Ltd., Arthur	20 0 0
Scarbrough and Sons Ltd., J.	20 0 0
Forest Railway & Steel Works Ltd. (Brightside Foundry and Engineering Co. Ltd.)	10 10 0
Erasmus and Son	20 0 0
Camwell, Lamb and Co. Ltd.	20 0 0
Colo Bros. Ltd.	25 0 0
Cresible Steel Makers' Association (Clift and Sons Ltd., John)	1 0 0
Oakley Ltd., V. B. and W.	50 0 0
Davy Bros. Ltd.	20 0 0
Davy and Sons Ltd., Arthur	20 0 0
Blowhard and Sons Ltd., J.	1 0 0
Executive of Trades Societies	15 0 0
Ellist, H. Michael, Esq.	12 15 0
Firth and Sons Ltd., Thomas	100 0 0
Hampster Ltd., W. J.	20 0 0
Halfpenny Ltd.	20 0 0
Harrison, Fisher and Co. Ltd., an Holson, Wilfred	1 0 0
Jessop and Sons Ltd., William	20 0 0
Edison Ltd., S. J.	2 0 0
Lee and Sons Ltd.	5 0 0
Margies and Sons Ltd., William	5 0 0
Mappin, Sir Wilson	20 0 0
Master Silversmiths' Association	25 0 0
Marples and Gullitt Ltd.	20 0 0
Mappin and Webb Ltd.	20 0 0
Master Silversmiths' Association	21 0 0
Newman, Chambers and Co. Ltd. (Old Alton Brewery Co. Ltd.)	20 0 0
Sheffield Forge	20 0 0
Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Association	20 0 0
Sheffield Co. Ltd.	100 0 0
Sonnet and Sons Ltd., George	20 0 0
Sunderland Bros. and Newbold Ltd.	20 0 0
Sygar and Jackson Ltd.	20 0 0
Smith and Co., William	20 0 0
Tydale, Sons and Turner Ltd., W. Tennant Bros. Ltd.	20 0 0
Tydale Park Colliery Co. Ltd.	20 0 0
Timothy Ridding Mills Co. Ltd.	20 0 0
Vickers, V. B. and Co.	20 0 0
Vickers Ltd.	100 0 0
Walker and Hall Ltd.	20 0 0
Wood, W. W.	5 0 0
Wood, T. W., Ltd.	20 0 0
Wolfe, John, Ltd.	20 0 0
Wintobank Ridding Mills Co. Ltd.	3 0 0

Bulk interest, less commission

Balances, being excess of expenditure over income

Total

Trading Rivals.

Let us examine the income side first. Here is a subscription from Cole Bros., another from Coakleys, another from John Walsh, and another from Arthur Davy and Sons, all of whom are dealing with precisely the same commodities that the co-operative society deals. Yet co-operators ought not to attempt to influence municipal policy, ought not to spend the members' money in that connection, whilst our opponents in the same line of business are allowed to make what subscriptions they wish, and to make those subscriptions behind the scenes, at a time when the legitimacy of our funds is being challenged in the open Press.

Let us examine the expenditure side. A total amount of £1,040 is paid presumably towards the expenses of the Sheffield Citizens' Association to represent not "all" classes, as their literature and posters say, but one class—

manufacturers, traders, and employers class.

How is it Spelt?

We should like some explanation of items four and five. But we don't expect an explanation. To use the words of the Minister of Labour, "it is not in the public interest" to give the information.

"*Financial Express*, November, 1925, municipal elections, £120 75. 5d."

"*Insurance of motor cars lent for November elections and various by-elections, £45 15s.*"

Now we know how it is our opponents can get from twenty to thirty motor cars in every Ward against the Co-operative and Labour candidates. This "Economy" Committee is prepared to insure the cars so long as the workers can be defeated at the poll by these means.

Trade Unions Should Note.

"*Clerical assistance for use of staff of the Sheffield and District Engineering Trades Employers' Association, £50 10s. 3d.*"

This should interest the working men in Sheffield, to know that the aim of the Masters' Federation is used for specifically political purposes, whilst working men and co-operators are supposed to be violating the principles of their own organisation when they use either their trade unions or their co-operative society machinery to represent the workers' point of view. The whole business shows the hollowness of the pretence that the Citizens' Association stands for the whole of the people. It aims for definite class legislation, and is out against the workers' own institutions.

Freedom of Action for the Workers.

It is to be hoped that Co-operators and Trade Unionists will remember these facts at the election of directors of the Brightside and Carbrook Society, which takes place on Saturday, March 13th, and most particularly at the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society's meeting, which will be held in the lower Hangerway Hall on Thursday, March 18th. The Conservative Party have instructed their agents and supporters to get inside co-operative societies and use their influence against the Co-operative Party. Every trade unionist and sincere co-operator who is anxious to retain freedom for the development of the twin movements should attend this meeting and vote against the Conservatives' motion.

Co-operative Members of Parliament.

Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., Mr. A. Barnes, M.P., Mr. R. Morrison, M.P., Mr. T. Henderson, M.P., and Mr. Hirst, M.P.—the five Co-operative representatives in Parliament—have proved their worth to the movement, and to the workers generally. They have contributed valuable proposals from the consumers' point of view. The evidence given before the Food Commission, the Coal Commission, and other public committees, have brought forward startling revelations in the way in

which the public have been exploited by private enterprise. The attempt now by our political activities is a bid for the success of political action, the freedom for which must be retained at any cost.

Telling Figures.

Our political opponents tell us that political action interferes with the trading success of the co-operative movement. Hence are the figures for the whole of the British societies:—

Year 1917 (Before Political Action)		
Membership	5,500,227	22 2
Share capital	47,153,203	22 2
Loan Capital	6,155,149	22 2
Reserve Funds	3,879,194	22 2
Trade	121,688,530	22 2

It is estimated that the defeat of the Corporation Profits Tax, as applied to co-operative societies alone, resulted in the saving of £70,000 a year to the

movement. By the sale of tea by unit weight, as a result of co-operative political action and propaganda, there has been a saving of £4,000,000 per annum to tea consumers generally.

Freedom for Development.

For cheaper food, for pure food, for full weight in food, for honest dealing, we must develop the co-operative movement. To do this we must have absolute freedom and full representation of

Year 1924 (After Seven Years Political Action)		
4,702,868	22 2	1,282,641
50,216,116	22 2	33,922,913
43,837,825	22 2	7,668,676
5,477,726	22 2	2,688,582
175,077,835	22 2	53,389,375

Parliament and on all local government bodies. Do not vote away your freedom—send your own representatives into the councils of the nation.



C.W.S. SERVICE

The C.W.S. exists for service. This vast and complicated business machine was created by practical-minded co-operators for the purpose of serving themselves and their fellows with the material necessities of existence. In literally hundreds of offices, it employs skilled directing minds for the one purpose of rendering service free from profit. The extent of the operations they direct is shown by the following items of trade from one half-year's balance sheet:—

Total Distributive Sales	£110,210	Margarin and Lard	£10,415
Beas Clearing	268,977	Stocks	1,282,913
Trades Mills Groups	5,717,145	Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, etc.	2,688,582
Stocks and Shares	1,337,800	Total Value of Transactions	11,215,205

C.W.S. operations in wheat and other commodities had the effect of reducing the cost of living during 1925, demonstrating that C.W.S. SERVICE is not only a Co-operative but a National Boon.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD.,

1, BALLOON STREET, MANCHESTER.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. COAL DEPARTMENT.

Depots: QUEEN'S ROAD and HEALEY STATIONS.

A REDUCTION IN PRICE From 1/- to 3/6 per ton

WITH LOWERED PRICES THE HIGH STANDARD OF QUALITY IS STILL MAINTAINED. OUR SUPERIOR QUALITY HOUSE COAL

Delivered Free, 35/6 per Three Miles Limit.

Coal in Bags, 1/9 per cwt. (extra for out-boundary). Weekly Delivery in all Districts.

COAL CLUB. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. Over 10,000 Tons now supplied to appreciative and satisfied customers. ASK FOR PARTICULARS.

ASK AT YOUR STORES FOR

"IVY" BRAND

**BOOTS
-AND-
SHOES**



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

**NEW
POLLING DISTRICTS.**

**HILLSBOROUGH ELECTORS,
NOTE!**

Arising out of the experience of the Hillsborough Co-operative Party, and as a result of representations made to the Town Clerk, it has now been decided to alter two of the Hillsborough polling districts.

Wadley.

It will be remembered that the electors in the Wadley village had a good way to travel in order to record their vote at the Marlcliffe-road Council School, which was the polling station for that area. Under the new arrangements, however, Wadley Polling District has been divided into two separate districts, to be named Wadley and Marlcliffe respectively.

The new Wadley district will comprise electors resident in the following:—*Bland-lane, Cast Pit-lane, Far-lane, Laird-road, Luke-lane, Norwood-lane, Prescott-road, Rural-lane, Stour-lane, Sinfild Hill, and Worrall-road.*

The polling station will in all probability be the Wadley National School, Worrall-road. This should be of considerable advantage to the present electors at Wadley village, and also the prospective ones on the area still unbuilt upon and known as the Sutton Estate.

The Marlcliffe district will comprise the remainder of the existing Wadley Polling District, consisting of all the roads from Wadley-lane to Langsett-lane, including that section of Middlewood-road. Roughly speaking, all the electors resident in the district below Wadley Church will record their votes at Marlcliffe-road Council School.

Woodland View.

The Woodland-view Polling District has been divided into two districts, comprising Woodland-view and Rivelin Glen respectively.

The Rivelin Glen electors will comprise residents in *Allison-road, Bingley-lane, Colby-place, Ferniers-road, Liberty Hill, Nether Gate, Rails-road, Ormside-road, Rivelin, Rivelin-rodley, Ormside Bank, and part of Stannington-road.*

These electors will vote at the Rivelin Glen Chapel Schoolroom.

The Woodland-view Polling District will comprise electors residing at *Barfloe-road, Butler-road, Carby-road, Forge-lane, Hollins-lane, Low-road, Myersgrove, Mill-road, Rivelin Park-road, Tivulake-road, Shaw's grove, Wood-lane, and part of Stannington-road.* The polling station will be the Woodland-view P.M. Chapel, Stannington-road.

This new arrangement will be of great advantage to the residents at Rivelin and the low part of Stannington.

By the way, we should like to point out that the Hillsborough Ward is too large for a municipal area, and unquestionably the time has arrived when some of the larger wards in the city should be divided into two. There is no doubt that the present Hillsborough Ward could do with at least six councillors instead of three, and with the growing work of our city councillors such a change would be advantageous both to the city and to the councillors themselves, who could thereby share the heavy responsibility their present position entails.

CO-OPERATION AND "BIG BUSINESS."

ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE UNJUST TAXATION.

In view of the attack that is being made upon the political action of co-operative societies, it is interesting to note the demand that is being made to impose unjust taxation upon operators.

A report in the "Morning Post" showed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is considering the possibility of imposing new taxation upon societies.

Recently an influential deputating representing more than three hundred local chambers and associations, several important national trade organisations, and the traders' organisations in the call of the Exchequer. The deputation claimed to represent at least one hundred thousand traders, and, in the words of the "Morning Post," they pointed out that the Conference of the National Chamber of Trade had requested the Government to devise a scheme "for bringing in an end to the comparative immunity from taxation enjoyed by the co-operative societies, which gives them an inequitable preference in advancing their interests within almost every sphere of trade and industry in which they compete, even outside their own memberships." They reminded the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he had already pointed out, in correspondence, that "the tax paid by the societies and their members under the legal provision which governs their case does not greatly differ from that which would be payable under the ordinary income tax law." This they firmly contended.

They asserted that the co-operative societies were privileged trading organisations, that they were also profit-making organisations, and that, as shown by the Report of the Royal Commission on Income Tax, they enjoyed preferential exemptions from taxation. The deputation commented on the "diluted and disappearing mutuality" of the societies, and on how the failure of the State to treat the societies, for the purpose of taxation, as normal trading organisations meant a loss to the Treasury, with consequential unfairness to other traders.

The "Morning Post" goes on to assert that they have gathered from an authoritative source that the Chancellor confessed himself impressed by the memorandum presented to him by the deputation, and undertook to consider whether the suggestions urged on him could be adopted. He did not bind the Government to any decision, but his attitude, it is understood, was one of wholehearted sympathy and

desire to meet the wishes of the traders concerned as far as the law and opportunity allowed."

We should like to know what defence the co-operative movement has against this proposed imposition, unless it is represented in the House of Commons.

Another point worth noting is the fact that the trade journal the "Grocer" is angry with Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., for asking the following question in very angry words: "Is the right hon. gentleman aware that there are cases of women and women of 17 working for 15s. a week, of 12 working for 8s. 6d. in these trades?" The attitude of the "Grocer" is dictated by the fact that Mr. Alexander is constantly insisting upon at least Trade Board rates of wages in the drapery, grocery, and meat trades. The co-operative movement is paying much higher rate of wages in these industries than are their trading competitors. Yet the Tory Minister of Labour refuses to operate the Trade Board Act, which compels a certain minimum in the rate of wages and a maximum in the hours of labour.

The point to be noted is that in the interests of the employees themselves, and to prevent the use of sweated labour, the Trade Board Act was passed, and many a sweated industry has been given a certain minimum on conditions into decent conditions of employment.

The co-operative movement gives on the whole, less hours, higher wages, more holidays, and better conditions all round than do a good many of its trading rivals, and Mr. Alexander is anxious to set private enterprise to the line in these things. Hence the anger of the "Grocer," which stands for private interests and profit-making in the supply of people's food and clothing as against the interest of their employees and the consumer generally.

Again, the necessity for political action is obvious. The fact that there are Co-operative Members of Parliament with practical experience of trade and commerce means that Acts of Parliament and governmental regulations are seen in a new light, and our representatives can challenge the will of the governmental machine in the interests of a class as against the well-being of the community. The moral is to send more men of Mr. Alexander's type into the House of Commons.

**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, Bowling, 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, LANC. Telephone, 26 Culcheth.

**You can't do
without it!**

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

Why?

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

What?

The "MELBOURNE MONTHLY," which costs 6pence, and beats the magazine at a shilling. Order it at your co-operative store, bookstall, or railway bookstall.

ELECTORS OF NEEPSSEND.

You are cordially invited to a

MEETING,

which will be held in the Woods Lane Council School, Rutland Road, on Friday, March 12th, at 8 p.m., to be addressed by Mr.

A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

Chairman: Councillor W. BANCROFT.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. :: COAL DEPARTMENT.

We are at Your Service with either Bag or Load Coal.

	Per Ton	Bag Coal	1/9 per cwt.
Selected House Coal	41/-	Delivered	DELIVERED FREE.
Second House Coal	36/-	"	"
Second House Nuts	36/-	"	"
House Cobbles	35/6	"	"

The Drayman is in your street every week. Get Fuel Particulars from your Branch, and ASK HIM TO CALL.

Sales Increasing Every Week. Full Dividend on All Purchases.

CO-OPERATIVE PARS.

Our Neepsend friends have at last fixed up arrangements for a splendid little guildroom over the co-operative premises at Boyland-street. The room will accommodate about sixty people, and will be a splendid little centre for the social, educational, and political activities of our Neepsend friends.

Furthermore, from the society's point of view, it will also be a sound investment and a paying proposition, as the rent paid will cover interest, depreciation, and all expenses in connection with the matter.

Neepsend, of course, is due to a much larger room and a real co-operative institute when that becomes possible, but they are prepared to build up an organisation which could make full use of larger accommodation when this becomes available.

As with the Hillsborough Institute, it is quite wrong to believe that there is any charge on the society. As a matter of fact, they form as good an investment as the society has anywhere, and, knowing our Neepsend friends as we do, we are quite sure that they will not be behind Hillsborough in enterprise and efficient management in their small room, and some day in a larger institute.

From what we can see the room will be available in about eight or ten weeks'

time, and we hope to give full details of the weekly programme shortly.

We understand that in connection with the penny in the pound scheme, a grand concert is to be held in the Plymouth Church Mission Hall, Woodside-avenue, on Thursday, April 1st. Councillor J. A. Longden has been invited to operate. All our readers in the district, who are interested in the welfare of the whole of the proceeds of which will be given to the Sheffield Hospitals Fund.

The Central Executive is considering the formation of a junior section of the Co-operative Party. A similar section is doing splendid work in the Kettering Division. The request for the establishment of such a party in Sheffield has come from the Co-operative Comrades' Circle—an organisation which caters in a social and educational way for the young men and women between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two. So that the new sections will be, unlike the Junior Liberals, actually comprised of juniors! . . .

Our friends at Tinsley are to establish a similar Women's Section to the one that is so successful in Hillsborough, and preliminary arrangements are in hand for an inaugural meeting in this connection. . . .

Our Brightside women have also applied for the same facilities. In this

connection, it should be remembered that the women's sections at Hillsborough are entirely self-supporting, and borough and Brightside friends anticipate making their sections paying propositions as well as centres of co-operative political propaganda.

In order to combat the false rumours that are set about in connection with the Co-operative Party, our readers are invited to get the current balance sheet of either the Sheffield and Eccleall or the Brightside and Carbrook Society, which gives a full report of the Co-operative Party for the last half-year, and also a detailed account of the income and expenditure in connection with the work. . . .

At the Central Council meeting held at the Montgomery Hall the report of the National Co-operative Party Conference was given by Mr. E. Billan and Mr. A. Barton. Members were especially interested in the fact that every one of the Sheffield resolutions were carried. One of the resolutions re local conferences was opposed by the National Executive in a vote of 10 to 5, however, it was carried by an overwhelming majority. The delegates were thanked for the able way in which they had advocated the Sheffield resolutions. . . .

Councillor Watkins' report of City Council work, which was given to the Central Council at the same meeting, was also received with enthusiastic approval.

It would do the "non-politicals" good to turn the details of the splendid work carried out by our representatives; particularly the work on the various committees, most of which is not made public.

Mrs. S. E. Ager reported on the Sheffield Guardians, and Mr. F. R. Chambers and Mrs. B. A. Barringer dealt with the work on the Rotherham Board. . . .

The Mock Cutlers' Feast held in the Guildroom at Hillsborough, under the auspices of the Co-operative Party, was a huge success. "Sir William Clegg," "Sir William Joyous Hays," "The Lord Mayor" and "Lady Mayores," "The Master and Mistress Cutler," "Lady Astor," and the Secretary of the "Women Always Right Association" made splendid speeches.

The "Feast" itself was more in keeping with an actual cutler's diet than is the one held annually at the Cutlers' Hall. . . .

Furthermore, every one of the guests paid for admission, and a substantial profit was made. Other Co-operative Parties should copy. We shall be pleased to supply sample programmes and "menus" for this purpose.

The Mock Parliament to be held on Monday, March 8th, bids fair to be a huge success. A "Cabinet" has been formed, and the "King's Speech" will be debated. We understand that the "Cabinet" is finding some difficulty in filling its back benches, and from what we can see there is every possibility of a change in the Government as a result of this particular session!

Although the Parliament is termed a

"mock" one, the questions to be submitted to the various "Cabinet Ministers" are such as deal with current problems, and will challenge the present legislation of the Tory Government. On Education, Housing, Foreign Policy, the Ministry of Labour administration, Ministry of Health, Board of Trade, Army, Navy, and so on, the questions will deal with statements that have been made during the past few months by the various Ministers.

The Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society's Guild Rally, held at the Cutlers' Hall, on February 27th, was a huge success; 780 tickets were sold, and a grand total of £1,000 was realised. The profit is to be devoted to the work of the Guilds' Federation and the B. and C. Play Readers.

Professor Hall gave a fine lecture to the B. and C. employees in the lower Montgomery Hall, on Monday, February 22nd. A good discussion followed the lecture, and a special lecture was created for another institution has been sent along to the Professor to ask him to further develop his theme at a subsequent lecture, which it is hoped will be arranged in the very near future.

The new membership cards of the Hillsborough Co-operative Party are rapidly being taken up. Interested persons in the Hillsborough district requiring to be registered as members of the Party, should write Mr. H. Kell, 238, Providence-road, Wetherby, enclosing a small stamp in return for which they will receive a membership card qualifying them to attend the meetings, and take part in any social or other functions arranged in connection with the organisation. . . .

A successful Esperanto class is being run in the Hillsborough district, on Friday nights, at Parkside-road Council School and on Sunday mornings in the Institute. The W.E.A. and the co-operative movement respectively are responsible for financing the classes. . . .

We understand that the W.E.A. is having some difficulty with the Board of Education in endeavouring to secure the usual grant given to adult classes. The contention of the Board of Education is that Esperanto is merely a commercial or vocational, university subject, like French, German, and so on. But the men who study Esperanto have no opportunity of learning French or German thoroughly, while Esperanto offers possibilities of intercourse with other peoples of the world after a few months' study, and is a real source of culture. In fact, we say it is the opening into a new world of thought and life. It is hoped to convince the Board, even yet, that there is a real demand for such a language amongst the working class. . . .

Esperanto is the wonderful invention of Dr. Lamonhoi, and is an international language. Instead of learning the fifty or sixty languages of Europe, each of which takes ten times more trouble and time than Esperanto, which is a real living language, in spite of its being also artificial, enables the intelligent worker to get in touch with the peoples of any nation in the world.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

GROCERY and PROVISION Depts.

Special Value in Tea

PRICE
1/6, 1/8, 1/10, 2/-, 2/4,
AND UPWARDS.

Special Value in CANADIAN BUTTER.

PLEASE TRY IT AND SAVE MONEY.

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, UNSALTED 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 LINES.

TRY
UNITY JAMS, MADE BY C.W.S.

APRICOT	1 lb. 7½d.	2 lbs. 1/11
BLACK CURRANT	1 lb. 9½d.	2 lbs. 1/5½
RASPBERRY	1 lb. 9d.	2 lbs. 1/5
DAMSON	1 lb. 9½d.	2 lbs. 1/5½
PLUM	1 lb. 7d.	2 lbs. 1/4
STRAWBERRY	1 lb. 9½d.	2 lbs. 1/5½
MARMALADE	1 lb. 7½d.	2 lbs. 1/11

TRY OUR LOGANBERRIES at 1/3 and 1/0½ per tin.

Unshrinkable

HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR

BRAND.

"Integrity"

The Reliable Cabinet. Stocked at your Co-operative Stores in all Sizes, Styles, and Prices for every member of the Family.

Made by the
WIGSTON HOSIERS LTD.
Co-operative Provision Society,
WIGSTON.



The Sheffield Co-operator.

MARCH, 1926.

As reported in our February issue, our trading rivals, who are also our political opponents, are bestirring themselves in an attempt to curb the activities of the Co-operative Party. The fact is that at long last other political parties are discovering that though co-operation is something infinitely wider than a mere trading concern, it has an economic aspect, which is a menace to vested and private interests.

The seeds of that gospel have been sown on new, if somewhat stony, ground, and are beginning to bear fruit. Nearly every co-operative society in the country is showing increases in trade, capital, and membership, during a period when the workers' wages are at a very low ebb indeed; but, if the workers can be beguiled into believing that politics should be a barred subject, this new field of propaganda could perhaps be closed and the confidence of members in their own splendid movement might be shaken.

The report of the Committee on Trusts, the Linsithgow Committee's report, the Coal Commission, and the Food Commission—especially the startling revelations of private traders' sheet-weight tricks—have all shown the co-operative system to be the most economic, equitable, honest, and pure method of dealing with the people's supplies. The result is reflected in the trade and membership of the co-operatives.

Our rivals point to politics as a disintegrating force, but that is really too old, as trade unionists discovered years ago.

The truth is that any powerful political organisation becomes of necessity a propaganda body, and the very discussion of co-operative politics in public has resulted in an increased public interest, and, as we have shown, a revival in the co-operative movement. Last month we reported a stupendous increase in the London Society's membership, turnover, and dividend, coinciding

with a political attack by the opponents' Press. A similar attack has been made at York recently. From January 28th to February 3rd, the "Yorkshire Evening Press" contained a large number of letters, followed by a leading article, dealing with the politics of members of the York Equitable Society's Committee. The purpose was to influence the election of the committee due to be placed on February 6th. Of fourteen letters three bore names and addresses. Each of the others was signed with a "nom-de-plume" or with initials. Most of the letters attacked the co-operative movement having anything whatever to do with politics.

A leading article appeared on February 9th, with an unguessed advertisement, urging co-operators "opposed to party politics in the co-operative movement" to turn up and vote for six candidates for the board of directors, who were named, and two candidates for the educational committee, also named.

The leading article endorsed the sentiments of its correspondents, and counselled its readers, who had influence and who had votes, to change the complexion of the committee of the York Society by "voting for the team of candidates" whose names were advertised.

As the "Co-operative News" points out, nobody regards the "Yorkshire Evening Press" as having any particular interest in co-operation beyond its party interest.

A repetition of the same kind of thing is being carried out in Sheffield. At the Brightside and Carbrook Society is to be asked to abolish its political rule, and the local Tory journal has already revealed its hand in this connection.

We know our readers will not be gulled by this latest Tory stunt, but we hope they will turn up at their own meetings and vote for the right to conduct not only their trading operations, but their political work, without interference from outside rival organisations.

In reply to advertisements mentioning the "Sheffield Co-operator."

THE FILEMAKERS OF GRENOSIDE.

By RENNIE SMITH, M.P.

THIRTY years ago, the little village of Grenoside was such a busy place of home industry that the people spoke of it as a beehive. File-making was the trade. Many of the cottages had little outbuildings for this work. In these outbuildings, whole families would sit, making files, large and small, of many shapes and sizes. It was an industry which reached out to Redcliffe and passed over into a fast-making industry in Shire Green. I tell me that the old file-makers of Ecclesfield used to play football on winter days and do their work at night, some of the seniors of the Ecclesfield footballers far and wide was spread. They played with distinction, and all men knew and praised them. But when the coming of the factory, the Ecclesfield footballers lost their cunning and their reputation. Now they are just ordinary players like the rest of us.

At Grenoside the carrier used to come on Saturday mornings to fetch the files. He took them to Sheffield to be hardened and finished. It was an important day after the carrier had departed, the little workshops would be tidied up. Both men and women put their tools down for the week-end. The men went away to Sheffield and arrived soon after the carrier to draw for their week's work.

They had no regular hours of labour then. Men worked more according to the mood. If there was a football match, or anything special going off, or they fancied an hour in the lovely Green Wood, they would drop everything, have a day off, or return to their work in the evening.

But all this is now more. Even the Green Wood, the abode of dryads and lovely peace, and gent and quiet thoughts, has disappeared. For three years now the Duke of Norfolk has had men chopping down the trees. The trees, they bleed, and leave a wilderness behind.

The great change came when a machine was invented for making files. The file trade began to shift to Sheffield. It took time for the old craftsmen to understand what was going on. But they soon understood. The file-makers all over the countryside raised a protest, because their trade and their living was disappearing. Old readers will remember the storm it caused in politics at the

time. The Liberal stronghold was made worse for a year or two. At the last Parliamentary election the Liberal majority was substantially reduced. But they might as well have persecuted against the east wind, when it comes sweeping down in winter. In an age of machines, who can stop the new machine from coming? So they set the old file-makers. When the world war came and showed its brazen face in Grenoside, there were thirteen men still engaged on the old trade. The boom in files, the traffic of war passed on to Sheffield. To-day there is still left for the old file-maker a tiny trickle of trade. It seems that the hand-made file has a quality about it which the machine-made file does not have. To-day one or two handworkers survive, the society representatives of a departed generation. The places where they work are now deserted. (Some are unshaken by the spider and the shy mouse of the night. In others the swine grubs in the labour of carrying, or the hen pecks or cinders, according to bed mood.)

All these, departing, seek a kinder shore. And rural mirth and merriment are as scarce.

A new generation is growing up. The growing youths serve an apprenticeship in the factory. Or they go down the mine. There is a scramble for jobs. The girls go out to service in Sheffield. For them Grenoside can find no work. This is the new age, carried far and wide on the tide of economic progress.

For aught I know the ghosts of my fathers may still come back, in the long winter nights, to the old haunts of the hill of Grenoside. They hear the snoring of pigs in the familiar building. They are startled when the windows of the house rattle as the bus goes by. They wander round and round, pathetically seeking the old Green Wood. They fall. They retreat, unseen, into the night, where eye of man no more can see. They do not understand our economic progress.

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