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MR. S. HARTLEY MARSHALL.

CO-OPERATIVE CANDIDATE FOR ATTERCLIFFE WARD.
SPLENDID RECORD OF SERVICE.

The Co-operative Party candidate for Attercliffe is a young man who has already made a name for himself in trade union circles. Mr. S. Hartley Marshall, who is to succeed Councillor Mellor, our present representative, has served the trade union movement in good stead during a critical time in its history. In 1915 the workless in the Sheffield engineering trades showed their confidence in Mr. Marshall by appointing him secretary to the local committee of engineering joint trades.

For the next two years he was both busy and useful on their behalf. It will be remembered that prices rose rapidly and wages only very steadily, and always after prices. Following upon several wage increases, for which Mr. Marshall was a successful negotiator, the famous 12½ per cent increase was given to skilled men in the engineering trades in 1917. Mr. Marshall, who is considered the so-called "unskilled" and semi-skilled men had to purchase in the same market as their comrades, pressed for the same concession to these men. As Mr. Winstan Churchill was then Minister of Munitions, this was no easy task, but our friend was so persistent that an inquiry was ordered in Sheffield under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Munro, and later it was Mr. Marshall's privilege to receive a telegram from the Ministry announcing that the much-sought concession of an increase of 2½ per cent had been granted to all men in the industry.

In 1919, Mr. Marshall was unanimously elected as secretary to the Sheffield branch of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. He has held this position ever since. Our candidate, however, is not merely a fighter in the workers' cause, for when the memorable strike of steam services went took place in Sheffield, Mr. Marshall was secretary and convener of a mediatory committee which soon found a basis for negotiation and settlement. Both the Sheffield "Telegraph" and "Independent" paid tribute to Mr. Marshall for his splendid services in this connection. By 1920 he had occupied the position of president of the United Patternmakers' Association for three years, and was appointed secretary to the Sheffield organization the same year; he holds that position to-day.

Let it not be thought that Mr. Marshall's whole time has been spent in the trade union movement, for this is by no means the case. His membership of the British and Continental Co-operative Society dates back fourteen years, and he was a member of the Barusley British Society before that, as also were his parents. He has been a member of the

Co-operative Party since its inception. One of the first members of our Tinsley Co-operative Guild, he conducted a co-operative choir in that area for two years, which was only given up because of members leaving the district when the trade depression set in. Our fellow member has helped in all our propaganda work, particularly in our election campaigns. He is a fine speaker, and can hold his own in open-air work against any kind of heckler.

At the municipal elections two years ago a scurrilous document was circulated, attempting to show that the Co-operative and Labour candidates were irreligious. We would warn opponents that this cannot well be so far as Mr. Marshall is concerned, for he is a strong church worker, and leader of the Young Men's Bible Class at the Tinsley Parish Church, at which church he has been organist for the last ten years.



MR. S. HARTLEY MARSHALL.

Born of working-class parents - his father a miner and himself a life-long co-operator - Mr. Marshall has used every spare moment of his time in improving his mind, the better to serve his fellows. He has attended tutorial classes, evening classes, classes in music, and so forth. He holds first-class certificates for machine construction, first-class South Kensington certificates, and other testimonials to his intellectual merit and capacity.

Attercliffe, and particularly the Tinsley section, ought to be absolutely sold for this "worker for the workers" next November. For the first time, Tinsley is to have the opportunity of sending one of its own residents to the Sheffield City Council. All co-operators should support one of their own members; all church workers should rally round one who is calculated to represent the best interests of their cause; no trade unionist should hesitate five minutes after examining Mr. Marshall's splendid record. In fact, why any working-class man or woman should look further afield for a representative when they have such a fine candidate as friend Marshall right on the spot passes our comprehension.

Mr. Marshall's candidature has been unanimously endorsed by the Attercliffe Labour Party, and the Trades and Labour Council. He is old enough to be experienced and steady, yet young enough to be vigorous and useful. The Co-operative Party have been fortunate in their choice, and on November 1st we are hoping that Attercliffe electors will be equally fortunate in sending our capable and well-tried friend, Mr. Samuel Hartley Marshall, to the City Council as their representative.

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MR. ALEXANDER'S COLONIAL MISSION,

GRAND SEND-OFF FROM HILLSBOROUGH AND SOUTHAMPTON.

MESSAGE EN ROUTE. :: RECEPTION ARRANGED AT CUTLER'S HALL.

Send-off From Hillsborough.

On the occasion of Mr. Alexander's last visit to Hillsborough prior to his departure to Australia, a series of very successful meetings was held.

In the first place, two very largely-attended meetings were held in the open air at Neepsand and Hillsborough, respectively; in fact, the Neepsand meeting was the largest ever held in that district.

On the following evening (Saturday) a conference of Mr. Alexander's supporters was held on the green adjoining the Hillsborough Institute. In addition to Mr. Alexander, the meeting was addressed by Councilors Bancroft and Longden, and Mr. A. Ballard (organiser, Co-operative Party). Mr. Alexander outlined the purpose of his visit to Australia, and showed the advantage to the movement and the workers generally in obtaining first hand information regarding emigration, cheaper food supplies, Empire development, &c., from our overseas dominions.

In the evening a great love song social was held in the Institute. The Blaina miners' voice choir gave a delightful concert as a result of which, along with another concert arranged by the party, the miners' relief fund was benefited to the tune of about £20. Mr. Alexander spoke at some length on the mining situation, and in reply to "Current Topics" comments on this subject. He showed conclusively that the Government were taking, and all along had taken, the side of the mine-owners during the present dispute.

Mr. Alexander was given moments of rousing cheers and hearty good wishes for a successful tour and a safe return.

Southampton's Hearty Send-off.

The member for Hillsborough sailed on Saturday, August 7th, in the "Empress of Scotland" with the representatives of the British and Irish Parliamentarians who are to take part in the opening of the new Parliament House of the Australian Commonwealth at Canberra. The party sailed direct for Canada, and after crossing the American Continent they will travel via Honolulu to Australia.

En route they will be joined by representatives of the Canadian, Newfoundland, and South African Parliaments; conferences are to be held on the way through Canada, en route for Australia, and in the various States of the latter Continent, where they will

meet also the Parliamentary representatives of New Zealand.

The delegation, which comprises eleven Conservatives, six Labourists, and one Liberal, besides the Co-operative representative, is not expected to return till about Christmas time. Mr. Alexander has a wonderful faculty for absorbing information, and his tour should be of considerable value to him as to the co-operative movement. His busy propagandist activities here will be missed.

By kind permission of the Canadian Pacific Steamers Ltd., a deputation representing the Southampton Co-operative Society Ltd., and other societies in Hampshire, boarded the "Empress of Scotland" to give Mr. Alexander a co-operative send-off. The deputation comprised Councilor H. Vincent, J.P. (president, Southampton Society), Mrs. T. Palmer, J.P., Miss F. Wilkes, Messrs. G. Feltham, A. J. Hayter, W. Jeffery, E. E. Obee, R. J. Rowland (members of management committee), W. R. Olney (general secretary), H. Laws (general manager), E. Lampard (Winchester Society), and E. Sewell and S. W. Vess (Hantsleigh Society).

Concillor Vincent, J.P. (president of Southampton Society) who informed Mr. Alexander that the deputation represented the societies in Southampton and Hampshire, said he believed the "Empress of Scotland" was the largest affiliated societies would be in accord with what they were doing. The purpose of their visit was to offer their best wishes on the important journey Mr. Alexander was about to undertake. They were very gratified with Mr. Alexander's work in the House of Co-operative Union and the I.G.O. affiliated societies and to the tolling multitudes in the country. He had always tried to throw his full weight into the scale of the co-operative movement and to the tolling multitudes in the country. He had always tried to throw his full weight into the scale of the co-operative movement, and to the tolling multitudes in the country. He had always tried to throw his full weight into the scale of the co-operative movement, and to the tolling multitudes in the country.

deputation represented; and the spirit of co-operation should manifest itself in all the wonderful resources the Empire has.

Mr. Alexander, who confessed himself deeply moved by that meeting, said co-operative leaders did not work for votes of thanks, but no human beings worked less well for having reasons the kindly thought of those who arranged that leave-taking had touched him. His inclusion in that Empire a tribute to the increasing factor that co-operation must be.

One could not look out on the Empire or the world without realising that they were in the midst of a tremendous economic revolution; and those who have been preaching co-operation themselves, based on the cumulative experience of their forebears for the last eighty years, have the greatest opportunity that any co-operative generation has yet had. The tendency is in all parts of the world, especially in the Empire, to move to very large scale co-operation on the part of the producers. They are at a stage in that direction which might be described as the pliable stage, and it would largely depend on how far they were able to meet them from their end, as to whether that movement for primary co-operative association would be conducted entirely for the benefit of primary producers or whether it would become a great world as well as Empire movement for the benefit of all humanity.

The general idea of primary producers' co-operation, of getting rid of the middle-men, might stop at the gain of the producers. It might be linked up with the movement from the other end of the economic scale, actually sharing with the whole of humanity the mutual advantage and mutual benefit which can be obtained.

In the British co-operative movement they had made a start with that task in relation to Great Empire organisations, and he had increasing evidence of that. He had a letter three or four weeks ago from the secretary of the publicity department of the new great co-operative wheat pool in Winnipeg, and would have the opportunity of being in personal contact with him on very important matters. Then he was to have the privilege of meeting in Australia the officials of the two great wheat

groups, which are now in direct touch with the C.W.S.—the West Australian co-operative farmers' group and the new group in South Australia. There was an immense possibility for agreement in that direction. He was pleased the co-operative side first because he was being sent off by hearty greetings from a co-operative deputation.

Mr. Alexander proceeded to deal with the general purpose of the Parliamentary deputation.

They were going, he said, to have a conference, with a very frank exchange of views not only from representatives from this country, but from New Zealand, Canada, Malta, Egypt, the Free State, South Africa, and Southern Rhodesia, and they would be able to discuss in perhaps a more free and frank atmosphere than at the official Imperial Conference those problems which must be known to and of great importance to all the different nations in the British Commonwealth.

En Route.

We have received a fascinatingly interesting message from Mr. Alexander, describing his journey across the Atlantic. With his characteristic interest in the cause of the workers, we learn that even when crossing the Atlantic in a first-class passenger he must perform some organised visit to the quarters occupied by the crew and the third class passengers, in order to ascertain as far as possible, the conditions under which emigrants travel to Canada at other Dominions.

We understand that the arrival of the deputation in Ottawa coincided with the celebration of the Centenary. We presume that members of the deputation would be asked to speak at some of the many meetings held in this connection.

Grand Reception on Mr. Alexander's Return.

The Co-operative Party has arranged a reception for Mr. Alexander upon his return to this country. Three of the largest rooms at the Cutler's Hall have been booked for the occasion, on Monday, January 3rd, 1927. Both Mr. Alexander and his wife and daughter will be present. He will speak on the best of the tour; music, singing, dancing, &c., will be the order of the evening until midnight. Further details will be announced, and tickets will be on sale shortly.

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AU REVOIR ! : POLITICAL REVIEW.

By MR. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

Views and Reviews.

For the first time this letter appears in print. I shall probably be one of the country, and the House of Commons will be "up" for the summer recess. It is not an important moment, therefore, to review briefly the opinion and views held here in London as to the results of the session's work so far as it has proceeded.

Efficiency.

It is, I think, by common consent granted in most thinking circles that the Government have shown a deplorable lack of efficiency in handling the affairs of the nation during their period of office. They were in receipt of an excellent legacy of good will and progress from the Labour Government. In the first year of their office they dissipated the whole of this, and now with their second year's occupation they are continuing their rick's progress by endeavouring to cover up at the expense of the workers their misdeeds and inefficiency in the first year.

Coal.

In the first place coal stands out as a glaring example of this. So much has already been written and spoken about this that I do not propose to repeat it, but only to point out the problem really arose two years ago, and that the Government have therefore had the whole of that time in which to think about its solution. Instead of so doing they bought first of all a temporary respite by spending £10,000,000 of the taxpayers' money, and are now endeavouring to get out of the difficulties in which they have become involved by rejecting the report of the Smead Commission, and trying to force the miners to accept longer hours and lower wages. Even if such a policy were to be successful it could not possibly solve the problem which exists in the mining industry to-day. It is not a case of increasing the output but of selling that output already obtained. With European markets in their present condition it is impossible to sell the coal which the miners have already won, and this trouble is enhanced by the parlous state of many of our heavy industries, whose condition again is due to the lack of demand from Europe and the outside world. Instead of attempting to solve this problem by recovering and restoring the European market, the Government have, in fact, by their policy in regard to war debts, imperial preference, and safeguarding, hindered any increase of inter-trading between this country and Europe. That and the cultivation of the enormous potential demand of Russia

for our iron and steel goods constitute part of the solution of the coal problem, but the Government have apparently not so much as considered this aspect of the situation.

The Effects of the Budget.

It is only necessary to choose one other example of inefficiency, and for that purpose I take the financial side of the Government's policy. Two years ago there were officers who have deliberately increased the proportion of indirect to direct taxation, which means to say that they are raising the finance of the country to a larger extent that formerly out of the workers' food and necessities of life. Such a policy inevitably means that their consumption of goods must be lowered, and thus instead of obtaining increased trade and industry in this country the policy of the Government is one which by curtailing demand can only decrease employment and increase poverty. There have been ample data that this has actually been the case. The one is established fact that from a statesmanlike and national point of view the Government have been inefficient, but they have put purely partisan measures in front of national interests.

Vaccinations.

Vaccinations is a matter not to be used for certain other parts of the Government's policy during the present session. It has really been little less than dishonest. One heard soon after the Coal Commission report came out that it would be accepted by the Government, and that mining royalties would be nationalised. Now advantage has been taken of the circumstances to throw over the nationalisation of mining royalties entirely on the ground that nationalisation will not pay for itself. It is in addition, in one of the coal debates, where the Prime Minister endeavoured to justify the Government's position, it was said by him that the Commission report came out that it would not be completed voluntarily within three years would be compulsorily forced upon owners in the interests of the industry. Yet the Mining Industry Bill, which deals with this subject, contains no provision whatever for compulsion at the end of a term of three years. Finally, in the debate on the Coal Commission's further example which has been given to us. The Tory Government claimed that it would bring about peace and prosperity. We are enjoying industrial peace in the coalfields to-day, and, with unemployment, prosperity seems also to be a long way off. The Government have claimed that unemployment figures were decreasing. What are the actual facts, however? When the figures of Poor-Law Relief are considered the picture of where the unemployed have gone is solved. Through the stringent regulations issued in February, 1923, and the Unemployment Insurance Act, this year, only need only take many thousands more of benefit, the unemployed have had to go to the Poor-Law. The figures which I give underneath are amended.

Persons in receipt of Poor-Law relief per 10,000 of population:—

First quarter ended March, 1924	...319
Second " " "	...297
Third " " "	...272
First " " "	...285
Second " " "	...285
Third " " "	...315
Fourth " " "	...218
First " " "	...221

*Labour Government.

Aut.

I shall not, of course, be able to continue the letter between now and December, whilst I accompany the delegation from the British Parliament to Australia, but I shall still have, through the arrangements I have made, kept in very close touch with political developments in the country. During the time, however, that I am away, my readers the best of good luck, and trust that they will find the London Letter interesting during my absence by a mutual friend to be as interesting as I have tried to make it.

MUNICIPAL TOPICS.

By COUNCILLOR E. S. NICHOLSON.

WHILEST the City Council meeting held on August 3rd were somewhat of a holiday spree, one or two matters of public importance were discussed and decided upon.

Public Abattoirs.

The Markets Committee have at long last secured the endorsement of the Council for the erection of the new public abattoirs. Some three years ago that the Corporation first sought powers for this purpose, but owing to the war, and after that, financial considerations and strong opposition from the Master Butchers' Association, the project has been held up. The chairman of the committee, in moving the adoption of the Bill, gave a detailed and comprehensive explanation of the scheme. He pointed out that the question of capital expenditure in the city had several times been brought before their notice by the Ministry of Health, and therefore they now recommended a scheme which would cost £97,745 less than the one which had been raised by the Council last December. They had also met two points of criticism of the mechanical arrangements which had been raised by the Master Butchers' Association. "One of these concerned the friction dropper. They had found an investigation that throughout the country the practice was to use an adverse animal against these friction droppers in public abattoirs, and they had therefore omitted it. It had also been suggested that they might be more advantageous to have the meat market at the town end of the site, and they had complied with this. The cattle under this new scheme, which was on one floor from the slaughter hall to the slaughtering hall, then on to the hanging-room and the cooling-room, and lifted forward to the market, and they had met with the full approval of the officers of the Ministry of Health, and the Abattoir Committee of the local butchers' association were also satisfied, and they had obtained the butchers' co-operation. He pointed-out, however, that there were several points about the scheme about which the Markets Committee were not very happy. One was that it showed an increased deficit on the working account in comparison with the scheme submitted in December. They had deleted the imported meat, but the suggestion of the Ministry that they should await developments at that part of the scheme would effect a saving on the market side of £70,000, and also make other savings. Whenever the necessity arose they had room for large extensions on the site. They could increase the meat market by 20 per cent., and the slaughter hall by about 90 per cent. At one end of the site they had a valuable piece of land which could be put to some useful purpose in connection with the working expenses; it is estimated that the annual charges will be £13,310 interest, £7,480 for sinking funds, £3,555 for rates, and £1,000 for overheads, leaving a deficit of £7,600.

It had been anticipated that a cold storage, &c., would have been part, and a profitable part, of the scheme; but apparently the local interest has proved too powerful, and therefore the annual deficit is higher than otherwise it would have been. However, with this apparent loss of interest on the rates, it is probably good value to rid the city of the abominable shambles, and to ensure the citizens a supply of meat slaughtered and inspected under the latest and best hygienic conditions.

The only other matter of public interest on the part of the Markets Committee was a recommendation to grant the sum of £20 to the funds of the Association for the Free Importation of Canadian Cattle. The result of the paper will not need reminding of the strong support given on behalf of this object by Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., both in the Chamber of Commerce and in the operative movement. It has been demonstrated time and again that if the importation of live Canadian cattle into

this country was allowed (of course, under reasonable and proper inspection), not only would the city be freed from meat supply, but a larger and better supply of milk. It has been stated that the cows in this country affected with tuberculosis are in greater or smaller proportions, namely 40 per cent., whereas Canadian cattle are affected to the extent of only 12 per cent. It is clear, therefore, also of interest to note that the consumption of milk per head of the population of Great Britain is less than any other civilised country in the world. The main objection to the importation of Canadian cattle comes from the land-owners, farmers, and cattle breeders. An amendment disapproving of the grant above-mentioned, supported by members of the "Citizens' Party, was fortunately defeated.

Aldermen—Rats.

A rather lengthy discussion took place on the minutes of the Health Committee with respect to the services of the public rat-catchers. It will be remembered that the Citizens' Party, in its zeal for "economy" and despite the protests of the Labour Group, had caused the rat-catchers of the Health Committee, and the latter had performed to look round for something upon which to retrench. Last month the rat-catchers had no room to dispose with the services of the rat-catchers. It can hardly be contested that, in addition to the material damage often caused by rats, they are a real public danger in their liability to disseminate disease. Bearing this in mind, the Labour Group at the last Council meeting brought forward a most successful in carrying, an amendment referring the matter back. This month the Health Committee brought forward a recommendation that a rate be made for the services of the rat-catchers, at the rate of 6d. per rat caught in house property, and 20s. per visit in certain cases. The amendment was carried. It was stated in the course of the debate that during the past twelve months there had been 309 applications from occupiers of cottages properly for the services of the rat-catchers, and no fewer than 2,499 rats had been caught as a result of visits paid to such houses.

It has to be emphasised that it is not the fault, but the misfortune of these tenants that their houses are infested with the rats, as it often happens that they are in close proximity to some slaughterhouse or warehouse, and it is from these places the rats come. One case was mentioned where the rats had intruded into the bedroom, and the occupier of the cottage when putting his children to bed had to sling them into a kind of hammock to ensure their safety from these unwelcome visitors. Another case was mentioned where a child had been caught in one cottage, and as the occupier earned less than two pence a week, the unfair position he would have suggested closed. In view of all these facts in mind, the Labour Group moved an amendment to delete that part of the Health Committee's recommendation relating to house property. This amendment was defeated by 38 votes to 21, and the 28 included the solid vote of the Aldermen present. Time after time proposals have been made that the members of the aldermanic bench when a majority of the elected representatives are in favour of such proposals.

Corporation Land.

The Estates Committee reported that they had agreed to lease a plot of land at the junction of City-road and Ridge-way-road, and in reply to a question it was stated that the terms were 10s. per square yard, with an option of purchase at 1s. a yard. Readers of Municipal Notes will have seen in a previous issue of this paper a reference to the writer's paper upon an amendment granted on the terms of the sale of a plot of land in City-road which had been refused by the Council have been given for 6s. a yard. That the amendment was defeated, the facts above-mentioned more than justified it.

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PRIME MINISTER'S ATTACK ON MINERS' WORKING DAY.

SPEECH BY RENNIE SMITH, M.P. FOR PENISTONE DIVISION.

We publish below a speech made by the House of Commons, just before the recess, by Mr. Rennie Smith, M.P. for Penistone. As will be seen Mr. Smith was replying to the Government's attempt to increase the miners' working day.

Prosperity Dependent upon Reorganisation.

I across the whole of the members of this House are agreed that there is not another industrial country in the whole world whose economic difficulties are greater than those which confront the British nation to-day. On several occasions I have spent some time in Germany and other European countries, and I had the opportunity last year of going to the United States of America. I am perfectly convinced that the problem of 43,000,000 people in Great Britain, the problem of re-adjusting to new conditions, is greater for the British people than for any other on the Continent of Europe. We have exhausted one great pioneering effort in the building up of modern industrialism. We are, as no other people, utterly dependent upon the re-establishing and rebuilding of new relations in the building up of modern industrialism. We are, after five years very clear indications as to the paramount necessity of changing our attitude in our fundamental industries. I think the Prime Minister and his Government could be forgiven if they gave the stock answer which has been given for one hundred years in regard to this problem, if it was the first time it had been given. I have never known since the days of Waterloo a time when we were in difficulties industrially that the owners did not propound the same solution as at present—that the way to industrial recovery was by longer hours and less wages, and that the way back to prosperity could only be found in that direction.

Four Commissions Recommend Reorganisation.

When we stand, as we do to-day, confronted with the doctrine of higher wages and the fact that we cannot deal over markets either in our part of the Empire because of the low purchasing power of the mass of the working population, then it is perfectly clear that a body of employers, or owners, or a Government, which merely repeats the formula of industrial recovery that we have used until it has become hackneyed and trite, is guilty of the greatest disservice to the British nation in this hour. Whether we like it or not, we

are, as a people, running out heads against a stone wall. The whole future life of our people is imperilled by the reactionary policy which has been established by the present Government in handling this industrial situation. We have had not only warnings, but four distinct Commissions of Inquiry set up by the most powerful Government of modern times to tell the nation what to do with its basic industries. The Prime Minister could be pardoned if he said that to transform the British coal-mining industry from a series of private joint-stock companies into a corporation is a Socialist recommendation and must be rejected. Mr. Justice Sankey, in 1919, summoned before the judgment bar of the nation the best men it contains to give the nation, and not a party, solemn advice as to how to get

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out of its difficulties and readjust itself to the requirements of twentieth century industrialism.

Premier's Responsibility.

The present Prime Minister and preceding Prime Ministers have had for seven years the solemn advice that there was only one way out; that the British nation must pull itself together and readjust its conditions, if we were to lift ourselves out of the bewilderment, anarchy, and denudation of our power in the world market. When we are confronted with that solemn fact and that we have had records of recommendations made by Royal Commissions for seven years, and that the advice has been systematically neglected and ignored, then I say this present Prime Minister stands confronted, not only with an act of base neglect, but with grave impairment of the power of Great Britain in future years to recover and re-establish her power and prosperity among the industrial nations of the world.

The Fallacy of the Increased Working Day.

We have heard a great deal about America. The long, long gentleman Member for Hillhead (Sir R. Horne) indicated last week some of the difficulties that confronted Americans from the industrial point of view. I wish he had pursued those inquiries further. The whole analysis of American mining life goes to show that the problems they are confronted with are very largely the problems with which we ourselves have to contend. If he had gone further in the inquiry, he would have found that if the American mining industry is to be put on a sound and prosperous basis the eight-hour day, which they themselves are working, will require to be overhauled. The whole tendency of American life, from the point of view of increasing efficiency and prosperity in the mining industry, lies in the direction of the reduction of the working day. For the last thirty years American miners have played one-third of the working day by year. In 1912 they only worked a little more than half the approximate working year. At this very hour, in the important bituminous coal fields, the men are only working two to two-and-a-half and three days a week on the average. Take some of the best companies in Indiana, one of which I visited five weeks ago. With fifteen first-class miles between seven and eight feet thick seams, fourteen of those fifteen mines were shut down. I submit that even America, which is our chief competitor, in handling her problem has had to confess that the long working day is the road to anarchy in their country as in ours. The United States Mining Commission is running exactly in the same direction as the inquiries in our country. While they are not prepared as a young nation to take the full value of the public corporation as the instrument for regulating the life of the American mining industry, they say definitely that coal has a special place in the life of the American nation, and therefore must be regarded as having a quasi-public character, and must be attached to it the principle of public regulation if that industry is to be restored to conditions of harmony and prosperity. Therefore I say we are confronted on all sides with the plain evidence that for seven years we have had advice from our best experts that we are literally at the end of an economic period just as we were in 1760. We have to strike out in new ways.

The Premier a Mere Tool and Mouthpiece for the Owners.

If we look back on that period, the movement we made from that national system of agriculture and the building up from 1760 onwards of this modern system of industry, we can see a tre-

mendous amount of social and industrial waste in the driving of our people from the country, and the breaking up of the system of common ownership. There was at least this to be said of those industrial systems, that they gave us a productive industrial system. These men who laid the foundations of our modern industrial system, that they give us to-day, when we are having to seek a new place for ourselves, we have the members of our own industries, and the royalty owners setting up deliberately an anti-social policy. It is not a policy that leads to production or the service of the nation, but that they will let the nation go to beggary as far as they care. Therefore, I say that, in the circumstances, we have a right to protest in the name of the labour Party. We who are in this party derive our life from England. We have no investments in the cotton mills of Bombay; we have no investments in Africa; we have investments scattered about over the whole world; we cannot sit back and England goes down; we live upon the labour of the labour Party, they are, only here; and I protest not in the name of the Socialist Party, which I have the honour to represent, but in the name of the labour Party, which we have in this hour a Prime Minister who has abdicated—a Prime Minister who has merely become the tool and mouthpiece of a number of evil owners and royalty owners, whose sole policy is to set up monopoly and class privilege and gain at the expense of a nation that groans in anguish and cries out for help, and leading towards a new period of industrial development.

WHY THE GROCER GRUMBLED.

"Good morning, ma'am. What can I get you this morning, ma'am?" asked the grocer, affably.

"I pointed to a piece of bacon marked '1s. 4d.' and said, 'I should like three pounds of that—in the piece, please,' said.

"Certainly, ma'am," said the grocer, and he cut off a piece of the bacon and placed it on the scales. Then he added the weights on and did some lightning juggling with the smaller ones.

"Three pounds six ounces, no less," he announced, whispering the hours of the scales. "Will that be too much?"

"No," I replied. "But would you mind putting it on the scales again? I thought it didn't quite go there—three pounds six ounces."

"Just as you like," said the grocer, no longer affably, and he replaced the bacon on the scales.

"It's no—I must have made a mistake," he said, with some confusion. "Three pounds and a quarter."

"Thank you. I thought it was four ounces," I said.

"Three pounds and a quarter—that'll be 4s. 8d.," said the grocer.

"Three pounds and a quarter, 4s. 8d.," I repeated slowly. "You'll excuse me, but why should it be 4s. 7d.?"

"No, 4s. 8d.," the grocer scooted.

His GREAT GENEROSITY!

"I think you'll find it's only 4s. 7d.," I persisted.

"I tell you it's 4s. 8d.," said the grocer, angrily.

"It's no use repeating it—that won't make it right," I said, now heated myself.

"Oh, all right, then; I'll mark it 4s. 7d.," said the grocer.

"But," I protested, "you're not giving me anything, you know. The exact price is 4s. 7d., so you're getting 4s. extra farthing even now."

A halfpenny's not much to make a fuss about," granted the grocer.

"Then I wonder you troubled to add it to the proper price, not to mention the two ounces," I retorted.

"I'm perfectly willing to pay the price, but I don't see why I should pay more."

I paid 4s. 7d., and marched out of the shop triumphant, but I had not got so far as the door when I saw the grocer in his paltry practice. If ever a housewife did the same, this price of halfpenny that goes on in ounces and halfpenny would quickly be stamped out.

R. W. R.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Boot and Shoe Department, BOYS' AND GIRLS' SECTIONS.

ASK FOR :	5/11	6/11	7/11	ASK FOR :	5/11	6/11	7/11
87A,	8 to 10	II to I	I 2 to 5	1229 A,	9 and 10	II to I	2 and 3
86A,	6/6	7/6	8/6	1228 A,	6/6	7/6	8/6
	8 to 10	II to I	2 to 5		9 and 10	II to I	2 and 3
85 A,	6/11	7/11	8/11	1226 A,	7/6	8/6	9/11
	8 to 10	II to I	2 to 5		9 and 10	II to I	2 and 3
84 A,	8/11	9/11		1224 A,	8/6	9/11	11/9
	II to I	2 to 5			9 and 10	II to I	2 and 3

PRICE AND QUALITY WILL GIVE SATISFACTION.

ASK TO SEE OUR STOCK OF BOYS' AND YOUTHS' DRIPED SOLED FOOTWEAR.

THE FOOTWEAR FOR THE WEATHER: "B & C" FOOTWEAR. ONCE WORN—ALWAYS WORN.

BRING YOUR BOOT REPAIRS TO US.

Co-operative Party

Notes. By "Co-opist."

The Co-operative Party has arranged a workshop school to be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 24th and 25th, at "Birchall"...

The two co-operative education committees and the Co-operative Party are running a co-operative colour book competition for children through the medium of this journal.

The proposed co-operative meeting-room is now complete. The official opening of same will take place on Monday, September 27th...

The Brightside and Carbrook works and decorating departments are to be incorporated in the production of a charming little meeting and lecture room.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party opened meetings have been held fortnightly during the holiday period...

September meetings as follows: Monday, September 6th - Birchover New-road lower Carbrook - cemetery, 7.30 p.m. Chairman, Mr. Jarvis.

The Monday evening meetings held in the pullroom are to commence the first Monday in October. A full winter's programme has been fixed up...

The Women's Section, which meets on Monday afternoons, at 2.30 p.m., will open their second season on Monday, September 13th.

Mr. E. Kirk (secretary of the Hillsborough Co-operative Party) has spent a considerable time in re-organizing, and in reorganization work...

As reported in another part of this Journal, Mr. Green for his splendid services in the past. It is hoped that he will not entirely sever his connection with the party...

The large hall, the old hanging hall, and the drawing-room have been booked for the event. During Mr. Alexander's absence the party has arranged for several prominent Co-operatives...

The trading conference of trade unions and friendly societies was so successful that application has been made for other similar conferences to be organized.

The Attercliffe Co-operative Party have elected a new secretary. Mr. W. Robinson, of 131, Darwell-road, has now taken up the position.

The work of distribution and propaganda is being reorganized in this area, and in response to many appeals a wider distribution of the "Sheffield Co-operative" is being organized.

The Brightside and Carbrook and the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Societies INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER AT ONCE. Membership Free until further notice.

CHEERIO! A Warning to Him. When summer time first came, my coffee had been to bed the night before, and to mistake, put forward the basinette instead of the clock. He woke up next morning covered with heat spots.

HILLSBOROUGH CO-OPERATIVE PARTY.

All-Electors cordially invited to a MEETING to be held at the WYCLIFFE HALL, Channing St., Langsett Rd., at 8 p.m. Friday, October 1st, 1926.

Speaker - Mr. MORGAN JONES, M.P. Chairman - Mr. A. BARTON

Present a Co-operative Meeting Committee for the Hillsborough Ward. OTHER SPEAKERS: Mr. J. H. Shelton, Councillors W. Bancroft and A. Spencer.

The Printer Awaiting. "Drops." "Waiter, there's a button in my soup." "After (ex-printer)." "Typographical error, sir; it should be mutton." A "Homer."

A Pressing Engagement. There was a young man from the West, Who loved a young lady with zest; So hard did he press her, "To make her say, 'Yes, Sir,' That he broke three fingers in his vest.

Tail Stories. Two Gentlemen, one Welsh and the other Irish, were arguing as to which regiment possessed the tallest man.

A Tight Fit. This little old Colonel was telling a jargon story in the club coffee-room.

Irony. I've been unemployed for eighteen months I could tell a tale of plums.

The Five Ages of Man. "Daddy, I know how to do anything," said the little boy of five.

Are you a partner of the Greatest Trading Organisation in Sheffield? IF NOT, JOIN THE "CO-OP" TO-DAY.

Membership Free during the Next Few Weeks.

Will you please do see that parcels are securely wrapped up, and the name and address plainly written thereon.

Are you a partner of the Greatest Trading Organisation in Sheffield? IF NOT, JOIN THE "CO-OP" TO-DAY.

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Will you please do see that parcels are securely wrapped up, and the name and address plainly written thereon.

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Membership Free during the Next Few Weeks.

ATTERCLIFFE DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY

HELLO! The local Labour Party desires to show public opinion in the following Weekly Programme:

- Monday, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Social Dance. 6d.
Tuesday, 9.45 p.m. Whist Drive. 6d.
Wednesday, 7.30 p.m. Women's Section Meeting. 6d.
Thursday, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Social Social. 6d.
Friday, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Social Dance. 6d.
Saturday, 9.45 p.m. Whist Drive. 6d.

Secretary: Mr. F. TERRY, 124 Greenhill Road, Darvall.

"OUR CIRCLE"

MONTHLY - - ONE PENNY

A Clean and Popular Magazine for the Young Folk of Great Britain, and for Clubs, Pictorial, and Competitions.

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Great Reductions in Prices of Laundry Work, Dyeing, and Dry Cleaning.

A FAMILY WASH for 2s. 9d. per doz. Two Sheets Ordinary, One Table Cloth, One Working Shirt, One Children's Shirt, Two Pillow Slips, Pair of Ties, One Vest, Pair Combinations, One Huddings, One Rubber Towel.

GENTS' COLLARS, 9d. per half-dozen. Gents' Collar Fronts, 3d. GENTS' DRESS SHIRTS, TUNIC SHIRTS, and all other Work. Reduced in Price.

Customers are respectfully requested to send their Laundry Work to the Branches only in the week. Parcels sent to the Stores in mid-week we cannot guarantee to return the same week.

12 for 2s. 9d. and Full Discount Allowed.

Blankets, Curtains, and Elder-downs Skillfully Cleaned.

Every Co-operative Store is one of our Receiving Offices. Telephone, 3791 Central.

Ask for Full Price List.

Dyeing and Dry Cleaning. You can use our Service, and at a small cost keep up a good appearance.

A Suit Cleaned and Pressed for 5s. AND FULL DIVIDEND.

Bearing the Burden



THE C.W.S. each year Bess the Burden of providing necessities for Organized Consumers to the extent, in round figures, of £80,000,000.

Eighty Million Pounds' worth of Domestic Supplies—from Bacon to Boots, and from Cheese to Clothes—Soyab, Bought, Carried, Manufactured, Packed, and Conveyed each year, with unfailing regularity, to Four Million Families. It's a big job!

All net profits are returned to the Purchasing Members. Have you had a share?

The work of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the 1,200 Retail Co-operative Societies combined keeps down the cost of your Housekeeping.

The Societies should have the active support of every reader of this journal. Are not you a Member of a Co-operative Society? Join and share the benefits.

C.W.S., 1, Balloon Street, Manchester.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

By Our London Correspondent.

MR. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., during his absence has asked me to continue the letter which usually appears under his name in the columns of the "Sheffield Co-operator." I trust that my readers will make due allowance for the change in authorship, and will find my comments upon London events and politics at least as interesting as usual.

Our Sensible Government.

Naturally, the affair which is most talked of here in London at the moment is the coal strike. Everywhere one is asked what is to be the finish of it? On that I would not like to bemoan my first letter by a prophecy. It is, nevertheless, interesting to study the whole position, and much comment is at the moment being made of the contradictory utterances and delays of this "Matt and Jeff" Government. We have not to look far to find some very startling contradictions. In the first place, for example, it has been freely agreed here that the intervention of the Churches both in the general strike and later in the mining dispute has been most unwelcome to the Government. In fact, the dignitaries of the Church have been told in so many words, and that by the Government, to mind their own business, as it is not their place to interfere either in political or in industrial disputes. Yet, directly after the conclusion of the general strike we find Lord Mr. Baldwin stating that it was his opinion that the dispute would never be ended by the

mineowners and miners themselves, and that he, therefore, thought that inter-ference would be necessary. He even proposed, without being asked, terms for a settlement of his own making. Surely if one person can interfere it is but logical to argue that any other person may have the same right to interference. Then we find the Government most logically passing this great thought that the dispute would be ended by the dis-puting parties themselves and that, therefore, it was necessary to interfere by stating that they did not consider any further inter-ference necessary, and that they would thus in effect simply keep the ring. Contradiction number one.

Eight Hours and Seven.

Nor is that all. I notice that one Sheffield journalist at least has been very keen in quoting in his daily column parts of the Royal Commission's report which suit his own particular views. If we follow such an excellent example here in London as is set us by Sheffield, we can find in the report a strong recommendation against the repeal of the seven Hours Act. The Royal Commission was supposed to advise the Government, but the first and only thing of any importance which the Government did after its report, was to tumble head over heels in their haste to back up the mineowners' case by straightway repealing the Seven Hours Act. Once again, if we look a little further than we find logic carried to its ruthless conclusion. The Government have set up a Fuel and Power Board, and have appointed the newly converted and much betrayed Alfred Mond to be its chairman. Practically the first remark which he makes as chairman is that we are suffering from over-pro-duction of coal, and apparently therefore he considers that the board should alter this matter. Naturally it is quite easy to see that by working an extra hour a day as the Government propose production will be curtailed as the Fuel and Power Board may recommend; that is if one has the necessary govern-ment mentality.

Other Examples.

One can multiply examples of this contradictory attitude many times over. Only one more is probably needed to emphasize the point. The Prime Minister takes much trouble to write a letter to America saying that there is no distress in the mining areas, and one would imagine from it that the doves of peace were indeed hovering in flocks over the coalfields. Yet, Parliament is to re-assemble again in the midst of its own vacation in order to consider the Emergency Powers Regulations under which it is possible to obtain three months' imprisonment for doing things which would not be punishable under the ordinary law. Further, the Minister of Health, following the idea there is no distress in the coalfields, feels himself urged to issue an exhortation to Boards of Guardians to curtail their scales of relief and their volume of expenditure which has already by its vastness proved the actual amount of distress in existence. Thus the Government's Acts belie its words.

Comments.

It is impossible to refrain finally from one or two comments upon the news-paper campaign on the subject which is being waged at the moment by capitalists and newspapers both in London and the provinces. The trouble is that human nature is very much like a flock of sheep, and those who do not trouble to think about the problems of politics and in-dustry are quite willing to take their opinions ready made from the daily paper which they buy. Thus we have had many flaring headlines in London concerning that terrific number of miners who have gone back to work. Ten thousand are reported to be back, for example, on one day; but what is never told us by these papers is that this country has over one million miners, and that the proportion of the number back to those on strike is really infinitesimal. We have in addition been treated to gruesome tales of molestation by pickets to prevent willing miners going back to work. Here again what the easily gullible reading public have never been told is that molestation is prohibited under the Trade Disputes Act of 1926.

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WE CAN DRESS YOU INEXPENSIVELY AND WELL.

