



The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



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GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000 COPIES.

Will Christmas Come To Sheffield?

SOMEWHERE in the Eastern lands a wandering people sought a spot on which to build their city. They had notions of art and civic splendour which could never be realised so long as they were wanderers; and so they chose a promising site on the banks of a river. In due time, they had built two rows of houses, one on each side of the river, and were proud of their accomplishment. Now that country was very hot in the summer time, so it was happy for them that abundance of water flowed continuously past their own doors. There was water to drink, water for washing, water for their gardens, and water for the pure delight of dabbling in during the sultry days.

Yet by and by the city grew, and as the citizens judged it ill that a city should have but two rows of houses, ever lengthening by the river banks, a second row of houses sprang up on either side. For the occupants of these houses, water was easily come by—though not quite so easily as to the inhabitants of the first row. They were a little more economical in their use of it; they watered their gardens more rarely, since the pitchers of water had to be carried for some considerable distance, and water is heavy.

Now, as is the custom of cities, this city grew, street upon street, until those who came latest to dwell there lived a VERY long way back from the river. Water was a problem to them, in the same city as those who had water in superfluity. They drank it, but not more lavishly than was necessary; the washing of their bodies and their clothing was limited to absolute needs, and there was none to spare for the mere pleasure of a bath, or the watering of a flower bed. Only in the driest of weather could a favourite flower, wilted with the heat, be spared a little quantity. There was abundance of water, of course, but it had to be carried for so great distance as to make the most rigid economy in its use an absolute necessity.

What a vastly superior city is Sheffield! Built on both sides of a river certainly, but what a river! Who would care to drink of the Don, or to bathe in it? Yet something approaching that good supply but poor distribution of water must at some time have been the case with Sheffield. Two hundred years ago, Barkers Pool and the

River Don had to meet the needs of the townfolk (differently not so widely scattered as they are to-day) except for the mills sunk here and there, mainly for private use. Our forefathers struggled with the water, and epidemics compelled an improved supply which gave an opportunity for still further improvement. In 1830, the Sheffield Water Company came into existence, which exacted considerable profit from the pockets of Sheffielders until 1887, when the Corporation took over the water service. The ex-chairman of the Water Committee—ex-Alderman Robert Striving—was interviewed by a reporter of the Sheffield "Daily Telegraph," and reported as claiming high losses. He told the Citizens' Party for Sheffield's wonderful water supply. Just think of it: thirty-seven square miles of land is occupied in the drainage area, vast engineering works, long culverts, underground mains and supply pipes are in use to bring a cheap, pure, continuous, and abundant supply into every house in Sheffield! Two-thousand-four-hundred-and-sixty-five tanks, he says, the size of trams would be required to contain one day's supply of Sheffield water! There is much credit due to those who instituted that magnificent system and developed carefully its finance, engineering, and other highly-skilled operations. The citizens were not turned out because they did not wish water; THEY WERE OUVTEIVED BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO STOP AT WATER.

There are two preliminary things about any political policy which aims at securing happiness for the citizens: it must aim at providing plenty, and it must seek to distribute that plenty into every household. Fundamentally, that is the Labour and co-operative policy in the Council; it is the way to bring something very much like a permanent Christmas into the homes of the people. What the "Citizens" did with water, we want to do with coal, milk, education, and other things. The child of the poorest parents can have as much pure water as it likes to drink: why can't milk, and education as it needs? This can be done when we organise the supply and distribution of coal and milk and education as we do water.

The first criticism we shall hear is that water falls as rain freely, and costs

nothing. There could be no greater mistake than to assume that water for half-a-million people can be obtained without effort and skill and consequent money cost. We have £81 millions invested in huge dams, culverts, machinery, &c., and the annual working expenses reach considerably over £100,000 a year. Two hundred years ago, a chieftain of Sheffield wouldn't have believed it if you had told him that in 1926 the water supply would be gathered in huge dams miles away from the city and be delivered guaranteed fresh and pure and continuous into every house in the city. In less than 200 years more, most of the essential needs of people will be met as simply, as socially, and as efficiently—AND THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO WON'T BELIEVE IT. Not many of them are left on the City Council, though.

Already we have laid the mains for a municipal coal supply—and we shall have the dams to contain the coal in due time. Coal now wanted in districts a considerable distance from the railways, which is laboriously and expensively distributed by horse and cart, will be stacked in huge "dams" or depots at selected convenient spots round the city by means of utilizing the electric car tracks for special trucks which have yet to be devised, but will be much easier to invent than military tanks. The co-operative movement is already tackling this problem on a voluntary basis, and in due time the whole city will be a co-operative society for this purpose, just as it is for water. It is quite likely that coal itself will progressively disappear so far as home fires are concerned, and that the light and heat required from it will be directed into our homes by means of electrical power. The municipal electric supply has therefore a great future.

As for milk, the whole people must—when they have learnt wisdom—see that an area of many miles round Sheffield is effectively drained, that the milk is duly separated quickly, efficiently, and sufficiently into all the houses of the people. Sheffield has power to deal in milk, and should begin, for the work will be one needing many years to complete. The whole of Sheffield as a co-operative society for the supply of milk, with its directors chosen by the people and sitting in a chamber at the Town Hall as the "Milk Committee,"

will be the beginning of great things for the child-life of Sheffield. Milk delivered as expeditiously and with as little waste of time as letters are delivered, will be an eye-opener to the "princes of commerce" who believe in what they call "private enterprise," which is mainly public humbug.

We pay for water according to our capacity to pay, and we have drowned in our water supply the law of supply and demand. Bearded and ancient economists, middle-aged and fussy and self-important business men have told us that we must not touch this "law." They say, if a thing is scarce it is dear; if it is plentiful it is cheap; that if people will have a lot of one thing so that the supply grows less, the price will go up. The "Daily Mail" tells you to get small quantities of coal to keep the price down. Yet when we have a long drought in Sheffield and the dams are low (as we had a few years ago) at the same time as people want more water for legitimate uses than ever because of the hot weather, the price does not go up. Compare that with coal. In winter when there are no "labour troubles," coal is dearer because people must have it, and will pay more rather than go without.

The whole solution is just this: find out how much coal is needed by Sheffield householders in a year. Then buy it at the slack times in summer (until the mines are "nationalised"), and you will have pools of coal to draw from as you now have pools of water!

Now an outline like this must have several defects: it must leave many questions unanswered. But if you want to bring the plenty you associate with Christmas time into the homes of all your fellow-townsmen, you had better think about these things. You can certainly then remain a member of the "Citizens' Party," seeing that they are either short of the imagination to conceive these things, or deficient in the will to do them.

And should you wish to raise an objection, ask questions, or argue the points raised; don't hesitate to write to the editor, and your letter shall have careful attention.

Meantime, a Happy New Year to everybody and we mean it so very much that we will work hard to bring it about.

—B.

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Hats Off to Christmas!



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THE CITY COUNCIL.

THE NEW REGIME MAKES ITS DEBUT.

BY COUNCILLOR A. BARTON.

"So it's started! And the Town Hall still stands."

Well, it was a very sober gathering on the whole. The Labour and Co-operative Party are not out for histrionics, but work. Up to date they have been busy in organising the committees, and a considerable rearrangement has been made to make room for the newcomers—but they are getting into harness.

It is not an easy job: there is a considerable heritage of inefficiency and neglect left over from the past which will take a long time to clear up, and every new scheme will require Parliamentary sanction, and we know that that means with a Government like the present. Impatient people will probably gird at us that the millennium is a

The Lord Mayor gave a tribute to the late City Treasurer (Mr. Geoffrey Johnson. He was always an obliging, efficient, and conscientious official, and many of us can testify, and the Council respected his memory by standing after they had passed the resolution of condolence.

The ancient and beautiful Pack Horse Bridge, which would otherwise have been submerged at Ewden, has been removed along by stone and rubbish at the pleasure resort of Glen Howe by the kindness of Mr. Joseph Dixon, and will be there to be appreciated and used by visitors from Sheffield and elsewhere.

THE PUBLIC HALL.

The chief discussion took place on the subject of the Public Hall.

Councillor Hunter had moved a resolution that steps should be taken to terminate existing contracts and to report, and Councillor Rowlinson moved an amendment that the Public Hall Committee should consider and report as to the best means of utilising the site in Barber's Pool, pending the time when the committee should decide to proceed with the erection of the hall.

Councillor Hunter was altogether opposed to the scheme. If a Public Hall was required, he considered the site not suitable. It could be sold for shopping purposes at a profit of £5 a yard. He was suggesting as a good site for a hall the present site of the Central Library in Surrey-street, but the Lord Mayor pulled him up, as he said that was beyond the resolution.

Councillor Rowlinson did not deny the need for a Public Hall, but nobody could have foreseen the period of financial depression due to the coal lock-out and other factors. They needed, too, such large commitments for schools and other purposes that it was desirable they should take an all-round survey of the situation before deciding to proceed at the present moment. Councillor Rowlinson's amendment was carried.

WATER AND FINANCE.

There is a close connection with "water" and finance, as all financiers know, but in this case it was real water. For water supply purposes a city has to look forward twenty or thirty years ahead. Now if trade is bad, and water does not bring in the revenue it should, and the city has a large sum to pay in interest on water undertakings for posterity, the question arises: Should that Service of Debt be "capitalised" so that the cost will fall on posterity instead of present-day citizens? You will see it is a complicated financial matter, and Alderman Blanchard flung out a series of questions at Alderman Womersley relating to the periods of the loan, the charges, &c., that no one could be expected to reply to at a moment's notice. Alderman Womersley has not yet got the official way of dealing with such things, and appeared a little confused, though his answer was quite to the point, but Councillor Rowlinson and others gave Alderman Blanchard a very deserved drubbing for his want of courtesy in putting to the new chairman what were really "trick" questions.

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

Councillor Minshall gave a fine tribute to the Libraries Committee in its work in providing school libraries.

Councillor Harcourt Jackson was to get in a question as to open access at Hillsborough Library. The Library Committee would be glad to institute open access, but, as Councillor Jackson knows, the building is structurally impossible, and we shall have to wait till a new library is built. Meanwhile as many districts are in urgent need of libraries, and especially Firth Park and Woodhouse.

Hillsborough readers will be glad to know they are to have a considerable contingent of new books in the near future to replace the rather starved shelves of their library.



COUNCILLOR A. BARTON.

long time coming. But sensible citizens will recognise that all good things require time for their development. The Labour government of the city will at any rate do its best to make a move in the right direction. Meanwhile its individual members will be clearing up scores of little injustices and inconveniences and giving assistance in large numbers of individual cases, and thus increasing the sum of happiness in the city and the world.

THE NEW ZEALAND PREMIER and the Freedom of the City.

On the Tuesday there was a special Council meeting to confer the Freedom of the City on Mr. J. G. Coates, the Premier of New Zealand. This was accompanied by the gift of a beautiful case of Sheffield cutlery. The Lord Mayor (Alderman J. G. Graves) made a happy speech, and Councillor Rowlinson, on behalf of the Labour Party, seconded in an equally felicitous speech. They appreciated the visit of Mr. Coates, he said, not so much on account of his personality, but as the representative of the people of an important State in the Empire. He made some humorous remarks of his association with the New Zealand contingent during the war, and also told how the N.Z.R., having unsuccessfully fought for a 21s. minimum wage before the war, many of their members had gone to New Zealand and made good. Mr. Coates, in reply, spoke of the work of the Imperial Conference recently held in London, and also noted the fact that nowhere in the world was wealth so evenly distributed as in New Zealand.

When one realises the importance of Colonial trade for this city it is not a commercial point of view, to spend a few hundred pounds on hospitality and gifts which may bring in thousands, apart from the promotion of friendly relations with our own people in other countries.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Wednesday Council meeting presided by Alderman Hambleton presenting eight new members to the Lord Mayor. He stated that he had the honour of presenting a record number of new councillors to the Council.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY CANDIDATES.

VICTORY ALL ALONG THE LINE.

As "Patricia," in another part of this journal, remarks, our present issue should really be a "victory" number.

ATTERCLIFFE.

First of all, in Attercliffe our candidate, Mr. S. H. Marshall, on November 21st secured the largest majority ever obtained in the Attercliffe Ward, viz., 3,581. The figures are as follows:—
Marshall, S. H. 3,570
Ward, J. C. 2,339

Co-operative majority, 1,231.
As pointed out in previous issues, although our new Councillor is only a young man, he has had a good deal of experience in Trade Union work. He proved himself a capable platform man; and this, coupled with the fine organisation in the Attercliffe Ward, led him to no room for doubt in the minds of our Attercliffe friends that he would be returned with a substantial majority—though one dare hardly pretend that such a stupendous majority was expected.

Relatively, very few indoor meetings were held, but a large number of open-air meetings all over the ward were attended with success.
Mr. Marshall's opponent, Mr. J. C.

Ward, who came with something of a public career and previous experience, found it impossible to get anywhere near friend Marshall and the Attercliffe organisation.
Although the Co-operative Party only spent £40, the opponents spent over £75 and were beaten by a majority of more than two to one.
Heartiest congratulations to Councillor Marshall and his splendid body of helpers in Attercliffe!

HILLSBOROUGH.

No result in the whole city caused so much surprise as the triumph of the best of all democratic causes in Hillsborough Ward. The Co-operative Party took responsibility for contesting this ward in 1926. Never in the history of the ward has either a Co-operative or Labour candidate been successful before; but as the ward is part of the Hillsborough Parliamentary Division, the Co-operative Party have concentrated their attention upon this "back-water area." The figures demonstrate beyond doubt that "Current Topics" is absolutely wrong when he says—as he has done repeatedly—that Labour has polled its last vote; for it was precisely the fact that there was a sub-

stantial increase in the poll over last year, which gave us our majority of 331.
The fact is that our workers in Hillsborough have kept at it so consistently during the last two years that our poll has progressively increased until final success was achieved.

From this experience it may rightly be deduced that with constant and persistent organisation in peace time as well as war time the whole of the seats in Hillsborough were captured for Co-operation and Labour.

The figures are as follow:—
Barton, A. 5,366
Bridgwater, H. E. 5,039

Co-operative majority 337
Mr. Bridgwater himself paid tribute to the work that had been done by Mr. Barton's supporters. The "Sheffield Co-operator" heartily congratulates Councillor Barton and his workers for the success achieved.

Again our opponents led no stone unturned in their efforts to hold the seat. They arranged eighteen indoor meetings on the day of the election and had a fleet of motor-cars against our two. Mr. Barton's campaign cost less than £50, whilst that of his opponent cost £165—so that money does not always "talk."

NEEPSEND.

In Neepsend, Councillor Bancroft was again elected, with a more than two to one majority, the figures being as follow:—

Bancroft, W. 3,343
Dawson, W. 1,265

Co-operative majority 2,078
No one had any doubt whatever of Bancroft winning this time, as his election address showed that all the people of Neepsend well know—there is no better representative in any ward in the city than Mr. Bancroft. This name is a household word to the Neepsend people, and we all know that it was an absurdity on the part of the Citizens' Association even to spend any money at all in the hope of ever moving Councillor Bancroft from his well-earned position in the hearts and minds of the Neepsend electors.

Again, Bancroft's election expenses were just over £35, whilst his opponent, Mr. Dawson, spent over £72.
Our Neepsend friends are not merely election workers, but keep the flag flying all the year round. Their propaganda work is ceaseless, and whilst they keep up with this good service no representative of the old gang need apply so far as Neepsend is concerned.

BY-ELECTIONS.

As a result of the elevation to the Aldermanic Bench of Councillors Bancroft and Watkins, a double-barrelled by-election was rendered necessary in Neepsend.

Mr. Albert Robinson (a director of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society, and National President of the Gold, Silver, and Allied Workers' Union), along with Mr. J. Havnt (local organiser of the National Union of Post Office Workers) were selected as the Co-operative and Labour candidates.

The Citizens' Association tried hard to secure two opponents against these two nominees, but persistent effort and extensive inquiries failed to secure likely candidates. Even the defeated Citizen Aldermen had not the courage to tackle Neepsend; and, as a last resource, our old opponent, Mr. W. Dawson, was trotted out once more, with the inevitable result that our two nominees were returned at the top of the poll with nearly 2,000 votes to spare.

The figures are as follows:—
Havnt, J. 3,063
Robinson, A. 2,979
Dawson 1,159

Havnt's majority 1,904
Robinson's majority 1,820
Councillor Havnt will take the place of Alderman Bancroft and retain the seat for three years, and Councillor Robinson will take the place of Alderman Watkins and retire next year.

Our two new Councillors are arranging with the other Co-operative representatives—Councillor J. A. Longden—to meet the electors at Neepsend at regular intervals, and we shall shortly announce facilities for personal interviews to all Neepsend electors requiring advice and assistance regarding municipal matters.

Co-operative Party Notes.

ARRANGEMENTS for the reception sale for the brethren of Mr. Alexander from his Australian tour are now practically complete, and by the 15th inst. most of our readers' attention programmes will be on sale. Owing to the limited accommodation at the Castles' Hall, and the very big demand that is being made for programmes, only members of the Co-operative Party, and their families, will be supplied. Owing to the same circumstances, those who have been disappointed of the retail price.

At the Cecilia Vaux Quartet and the Shawcross Melody Masters will give concert items. Mr. Hart's symphonised orchestra will play for dances. The programme includes old time as well as the latest dances, with limelight effects, premiums, and other novelties, making the affair into a real carnival. Mrs. and Miss Alexander will be present, and we are all expecting an interesting address from our member, this being his first public appearance in Sheffield since the tour.

As usual before, the sale will be held at the Castles' Hall, from 7 to 12 p.m. on Monday, January 19th. Programmes, 1s. 3d., may be ordered from the following:

Hillsborough Divisional Secretary: Mr. E. Cook, 79, Providence-st., Walsley.
Hillsborough Women's Section Secretary: Mrs. E. Holmes, 12, Sydney-road, Crookes.

Neepsend Ward Secretary: Mr. J. W. White, 77, Ryley-street.

Neepsend Divisional Secretary: Mrs. D. Palmer, 43, Hilday-road.

Attercliffe Divisional Secretary: Mr. W. A. Walton, 383, Windmill-lane, Saltergate.

Attercliffe Divisional Secretary: Councillor W. G. Robinson, 133, Darnall-road, Crookes.

Hillam Divisional Secretary: Mr. C. S. Gibson, 7, Armhouse-road, Netheridge.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Women's Section: Mr. J. Hillan, 39, Mitchell-street, Crookes.

Secretary, Sheffield Co-operative Party: Mr. C. E. 7, Bank-street, (Phone, Central 342).

Adult members may order through their respective sections, and employees from their trade union secretary, Mr. Biggill, 14, Paradise-square.

The new Women's Section of the Co-operative Party in connection with the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society has appointed an office and committee, and is now meeting regularly every Thursday at 2.30 p.m. in the Mount Tower Schoolroom, Wellington-street. Mr. J. Hillan is the secretary. All women members of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society give a hearty invitation to the meetings.

Mr. A. Ballard (Councillor), Councillor A. Barton, Councillor J. A. Longden, and other public representatives have been booked as speakers at the next meeting to be held from October 25th to 27th, 1926, at the Citizens' Association in the Hillsborough and Neepsend sections. Over fifty members have already been enrolled, and it is hoped to double this number before the end of the year, when a fully detailed programme will be arranged and printed for general distribution in the district.

The Co-operative Party "Monthly Notes" for speakers are now being supplied to nearly all the guilds in Sheffield and speakers in the movement. Most of the guilds have agreed to read and discuss the "Notes" each month. In this way guild members are becoming up to speed with the principles of the party and doing much propaganda work amongst the non-guild members of the two societies.

At the recent Co-operative Party conference in Yeak, Sheffield was again well in evidence. Although, about twenty delegates attended from the various sections in Sheffield, the Neepsend section was congratulated Sheffield on its splendid municipal results.

An Attercliffe Co-operative Party meeting will be held at the Berkeley-street Guild Room on Thursday, December 16th, at 7.30 p.m. All co-operators cordially invited.

The Co-operative Party Annual Conference will be held at the Parkborough meetings, 30th. Local Co-operative Parties have received preliminary notice, and full agenda will be discussed at the forthcoming meetings.

At the Hillsborough Co-operative Party social held at the Institute, Decemember 10th, Councillor A. Barton addressed a gathering of nearly 500, and took part in a very interesting and profitable election. Was a crowd of this kind can be repeated in connection with one single ward. It is a splendid fact that the organisation has improved, but that Mr. Alexander's position is being further and still further consolidated. Mr. Alexander has, ever, appeared for still further propaganda, and additional volunteers for distributive and canvassing work are being obtained.

The Hillsborough Party have need to be particularly successful in their efforts. Mr. Kelly and Mrs. Solman, for the success already achieved and the promise of still further success.

The social was one of the largest gatherings it has been our privilege to attend.

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The Sheffield Cooperator.

DECEMBER, 1920.

PEACE ON EARTH.

"PEACE on earth, goodwill to men," will be repeated by millions of people during the next few days—in articles, speeches, sermons, and song—as the ideal application of Christian principles to all the affairs of men. Yet, as we look round, we see the same people, if not definitely fomenting antagonism between class and class, yet supporting or at least tolerating conditions which render either peace or goodwill impossible.

In the industrial sphere we have the degrading spectacle of over a million men, with wives and children, brutally crushed down to a lower standard of living by a Premier who mouths peace and practises war. The men who are thus thrust back to a less civilised mode of life are the very people to whom the community ought to give of its best. Shut off from sunshine, working in high temperatures and vitiated atmospheres, with a higher percentage of danger to life and limb than in any other industry, the miner is asked to make sacrifices in the interest of industrial peace! After thirty weeks' heroic sacrifice, the men have been compelled to accept terms that are not only degrading, but are in themselves a menace to future peace. Meanwhile, helpless politicians and incapable "captains of industry" are preaching peace and goodwill among men.

Living in a country abounding in mineral wealth, and as part of an Empire endowed with every human need and blessing, we Britons have not yet learned the elementary principles of the Christian gospel we profess to follow.

It is no use crying peace, peace, where there is no peace. If we are to have peace and goodwill among men we must create the conditions which will make peace possible. To do that involves more than praying or preaching; it involves a change of heart, mind, and purpose—in statesmen and masters, as well as workmen.

Every well-fed, well-dressed, and well-housed man and woman in this country during the coming festive season ought to give a thought to those millions who, through no fault of their own, are being denied the common necessities of life.

Christmas should mean to every one of us what it meant to the Nazarene whose birth we celebrate—a concentration to the service of humanity to the end that the kingdom of peace and goodwill may be established on earth.

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



BOOK REVIEWS.

"MODERN FINANCE AND INDUSTRY."

BY A. S. WADE.

(See Isaac Pitman & Sons Ltd., 5/- net.)

This does not sound very "Christmassy," except that a real Christmas has much to do with both finance and industry. Money is obviously essential, and work here, in the large and social sense, called "industry" quite necessary to a Happy Christmas.

Mr. A. S. Wade, the author of this book, is the City editor of the *Daily News*, and is reputed to be a source of inspiration to Philip Snowden. At any rate, he is the writer of the financial columns in that placid newspaper. For such a one, he is exceptionally good, although I have not always and do not now share all his opinions.

A Plain Account.

The work is said to be a "plain account of the British financial system, and of its functions in relation to industry and commerce." So it is, as far as such a subject is capable of being plainly told. Why is it that so many people find these subjects so baffling? Probably because long thinking about abstract ideas is in itself a task, and the ramifications of finance seem to them to thread out interminably.

Here is one quotation, however, which will have met in some form or other: "Ignorance says 'no' when big schemes of education, slum reform, land reform, housing reform, or any other great improvement is proposed, the Government and the people may sometimes require to wait." Sometimes, Mr. Wade? We have been waiting all the time, and we are of opinion that these reforms must be preceded by another: to wit, financial reform. Otherwise, progress will be so excessively slow that movement will hardly be discernible.

High Taxation.

Mr. Wade holds the opinion that high taxation may check "initiative." This is a widely prevalent notion, having its substratum of truth without doubt. But how otherwise would Mr. Wade get over the difficulties which result through the gross inequalities of the national income? Poor-relief, education, health and housing services, &c., are all slight correctives having their base on taxation, and despite the present high taxation and super-tax returns show that some incomes are enormous. In fact, Mr. Wade's opinion seems to be that unless you allow some people to exploit you sufficiently they will not lift a hand, though the community starve. This is the usual point of view of business men, true only in so far as a community is content to leave the means of its well-being

in the hands of private individuals serving their personal interests.

As a matter of fact, it was the high taxation imposed by Lancashire employers on their workmen (in the shape of high profits) which gave rise to the initiative which has produced the present-day co-operative movement. It is present-day co-operative that is a social error; the virtue or vice of high taxation depends upon what we do with the taxes after collection. If they are merely repaid into the pockets of wealthy people (as much of our taxation is), then high taxation may not only prevent "initiative," but prevent people from having a decent livelihood. Alternatively, if we tax ourselves to buy corporately, we shall buy both better and cheaper, and we shall distribute more justly.

The Banks.

The chapter on "Banking" is excellent. Here is a well-stated remark: "The Big Five are live centres of our banking system in its touch with industry and the general public; the Bank of England is the core, and they are the powerful ring surrounding the core." As to the Bank of England itself, he says: "To-day, as everyone realises, the prestige of the Bank and the absolute confidence of the public at home and abroad in its operations are due to the knowledge that the Government of the nation has always been its final support." True as this is, it is really evidence of the fact that the proprietors of the Bank can look to the Government and say, "So long as we do reasonably, and take no undue risk, it is 'heads' we win and 'tails' you lose."

Incidentally, Mr. Wade has recently been having a duel with Mr. Walter Leaf on the subject of bankers and the creation of credit. Mr. Leaf (who is a fine Greek scholar, a kindly and sincere man, and the chairman of the Westminster Bank Ltd., one of the "Big Five") has recently been denying that banks can "create" credit. Mr. Wade has made short work of him in the discussion. Elsewhere in this book he has written: "The banking system has been built up to its present great size by banks consistently lending more money than they owned or could borrow. Credit documents are the creation of banks." This matter is dealt with in Chapter IV. of the book now under consideration, on "The Banks and Our Savings."

Foreign Exchange.

Since the war there has been much popular interest and considerable growth of popular knowledge with regard to

foreign exchange. It was high time—and perhaps even Chancellors of the Exchequer would be all the better for a little more application to this subject; some of them, at any rate. Mr. Wade "has heard several Chancellors of the Exchequer in the presence of City audiences disdain adequate intellectual agility to follow the intricacies of foreign exchange." He thinks, however, it must have been merely a "pose" to flatter the City men who were listening.

I am not so sure; a good many Chancellors have certainly been far from well-equipped to deal with this and allied matters. In fact, some of them would have derived considerable advantage from a reading of this book.

Definition and Inflation.

Securities, the Stock Exchange, and all the factors associated with modern finance and industry are carefully dealt with. He does not reach the humour, and perhaps hardly the simplicity, of Hartley Wither's books on similar subjects, but any ordinary reader of other than light novels would find no real difficulty in following his meaning.

Moreover, the get-up of the book is very good; paper, printing, and general arrangement are all that could be asked to all who have need or desire to know more of that strange tangle of activities that we sum up in the large general title of "Modern Finance and Industry."

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OUR LONDON LETTER.

BY OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

Municipal Elections.

The results of the municipal elections have proved conclusively that the nation as a whole is disgusted with the incompetence of the present Government, both in its mishandling of the coal situation and in its attempt to discredit local municipal enterprise by passing national financial burdens on to local authorities to bear. In this respect, naturally, Sheffield has been very hard hit, for unemployment in the steel trades has been passed on to the local Guardians to bear, and the Government has saved the expense of paying out unemployment insurance benefit at the cost of a largely increased liability of the local Guardians, the money for which the Government will not have to find. Many evil effects of the policy must necessarily remain, but it is certain that a very serious warning has been given to the Government which will indicate to them that they cannot carry on political corruption and democratic aggression indefinitely.

Electricity.

How far that political corruption has actually proceeded has been demonstrated in the House of Commons just lately. During the debates on the Government's electricity Bill it was evident, in the first place, that certain members of the Tory Party were opposing the Bill as representatives of interests, both commercial and industrial, which were likely to be affected, quite regardless of the benefit of the Bill from a national point of view. In the second place, the trickery of the whole Tory Party was exposed when in the debates the Opposition in the House brought out the fact that the distributive companies engaged in supplying electricity to consumers at the present moment were making such huge profits that they were not only paying largely-increased dividends, but also issuing bonus shares to their shareholders. That is, consumers are

again the victims of extortion, and the Government in their Bill leave this part of the electrical industry entirely alone. In actual fact they are, in consequence, proposing to legalize profiteering, and in addition in the Bill they are leaving wherever it is at all possible to do so, the generation and transmission of electricity in the hands of private enterprise. It is futile, therefore, for the Government to say that their Electricity Bill is benefiting the nation, when in point of fact it is simply putting money into the pockets of their own supporters.

Political Corruption.

This part of the Tory policy has received further proof recently in the Rural Housing Bill of the Government, where once again the Conservatives are proposing to reward their supporters at the last general election by giving them a good money grant. The Bill is one which provides for the granting of a State subsidy to impetuous and inefficient landlords to enable them to repair agricultural buildings which they are unable to fall into decay owing to the laxity of the supervision of a Tory national Government and Tory local authorities. Under the Bill even stables can be used for housing agricultural workers, and the whole of the value of the improvements, made with the aid of public funds, is to accrue to the private landlords. The Government's cry has been economy, and this they have carried out by reducing unemployment relief grants, educational grants, and health services; but when it comes to something for their own supporters, this economical Government can find £50,000 of other people's money to put into their pockets. No wonder the landowner is a Tory!

Coal.

Economy, however, is the Government's cry everywhere else, and it is interesting to see how in fact they have

economised in the coal stoppage. When the charge has been levelled against them that they have adopted a starvation policy in order to force the miners back to work, Ministers have always pointed to the amount being spent on relief and meals for children as an indication that starvation was not the policy. This hypocritical pretence was, however, blown to smithereens when the Opposition, after having ascertained by persistent questioning the amount which the Government actually has spent, were able to show that this was less than 2d. per head per day, and that the expenditure on meals had been less than 2d. per week per child. This is Tory charity to the poor and helpless—but only to half of them, for it is only half of the miners' dependents who have been relieved, and about 75 per cent. of that half have received the relief on loan only. In the Tory mind charity and money-lending seem to be synonymous terms.

Dear Food.

Still, in pursuit of this policy of cheap labour for the millionaire and dear food for the millions, the Government have brought up for consideration this week their Merchandise Marks Bill. This is nothing less than another form of backward protection, for it seeks by its hampering regulations to decrease imports and the Government, in fact, admitted in the debates that their real aim in the Bill was not to enable the consumer to know what he was buying, but to protect the British manufacturer so that he could make bigger profits by gaining a virtual monopoly in the home market. More especially the Bill deals with food-stuffs, and is particularly stringent on this class of commodities. In point of fact, it is therefore a measure which is bound to increase the price of food, and, as such, is quite in harmony with the Tory idea of lowering wages and increasing the cost of living at one and the same time.

The Attack on the Workers.

In pursuit of their vendetta against the workers, the Government recently proposed terms for a settlement of the coal stoppage, and despite the desire of everyone to see a settlement of this disastrous dispute, no one in London who knew anything of political thought was surprised when the terms were rejected. They were once again an indication of Tory trickery, for not only did they propose district agreements, longer hours, and lower wages, all of which things were diametrically opposed to the principles of the Miners' Federation, but also they endeavoured to foist upon a gullible public a useless tribunal. This body would have had no authority to revise agreements concerning working conditions, arrangements in regard to hours, or bargains on the question of wages, and the Miners' Federation, as such, would apparently have been unable to state the case of any district lodge of miners before the tribunal. In other words, the Government imagined that they had got the miners in such a position that they could dictate to them what terms they pleased, and could enforce their will upon them for the coming three years. Underneath the plausible exterior of these terms was concealed an attack on one of the biggest bodies of workers in this country, not by employers as such, but by a Government which has long ago repudiated its responsibility to the nation in order to range itself with the worst type of employers in attacking working conditions and wages. It is as well that everyone in this country should know these facts. It is probable, as I mentioned at the commencement of my letter, that the Government will go carefully for a little while after their defeat at the municipal elections, but the electorate should for all that keep in mind the attempts which have already been made against them by a Government which came into power only on the strength of a forgery.



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HOME NOTES.

By "PATRICIA."

Other parties are still at work on their proper aim to establish the Kingdom of Heaven among men. . . . There is no hope in there if their aim is merely to assert the will of one nation or class or party against the will of all nations.

There ought to be called our thinking nation, for surely everyone who is interested in the Labour and co-operative movements in Sheffield need feel like giving thanks to all and sundry who helped to bring about the good results in the November elections. Not that the personal success means we can all sleep undisturbed at night. No! The work must go on until a real majority of the citizens are fully alive to the importance of local and national government in the interests of all. Yet it is good to rejoice in the way, and it heartens one to carry on all every voter is in favour of better housing, general town improvement, fair opportunities of education for every child, and many other things too numerous to write.

So here's to next year. May it bring us still greater success. . . . It is strange how little things will change the current of one's thoughts. I was talking to a woman in the tram car on election day and heard quite a little story of a "convert," one of those extra voters who helped to make our success.

The person had never bothered about election meetings, her husband never went; but as it happened they were very short of coal, and there being a meeting near, they decided to save coal by going to the meeting. There so much advice was given to vote against the Co-operative and Labour candidates that their curiosity was aroused, so next night, and a few more nights, the coal was still further saved whilst they went to hear the Co-operative and Labour speakers, and to cut a long-story short, they were very interested, and heard a good deal about city management, and as a Co-operative candidate was standing in their ward they were able to record their votes for him.

That is how the circle widens. Even the coal struggle is having its effect in quarters least expected.

Christmas will soon be here, and many a home will suffer from the long-drawn-out struggle of the winter. Too many of our people have only just thought to carry on when in full work, and when work and wages

are curtailed so many little things get into arrears. . . . This seems doubly hard at Christmas time when cost of living is higher, more food, clothing, and fuel being necessary. In addition, it seems harder to be short when the shop windows are displaying tempting wares and an air of festivity reigns. . . . It really is true that it is better to give than receive, and that is written for those who have to depend on the charity of others for necessities. It may be false and one is not sure if it is true because the means are available. . . .

So much is being said and written about the value of electricity for household purposes that it behoves every woman who has the care of a house to think how she would like to do away with coal fire altogether. . . . There are houses now, and more are being built, without fireplaces; and electric gas, fans, cookers, and boilers have to suffice. Those who read their Parliamentary news will have read of the discussion over the Smoke Abatement Committee.

I for one rejoice that Mr. Lums (the Labour Member for Kirkstall) spoke against any proposal to abolish the coal fire in the home. There is no fire—gas or electric—that I have used that compares to the genial and healthy coal fire. . . . True, it adds a little to the work, and one knows flameless fire adds to the cost and makes a lot of noise, but there are fire-places that consume a large amount of their own smoke. We need cleaner and brighter stoves. We are all surely in favour of that, but let such a state be brought about by improved fireplaces, not the abolition of them.

Think of what it would mean if a municipal housing scheme was controlled by those who wanted to do away with fireplaces. Good enough to have a gas boiler on gas water, but don't I think I should like to try the electric radiator, though I fully appreciate their uses, also electric stoves.

Electricity as a force to save labour is wonderful. Electric cookers and cleaners are splendid, and I wish there were no expensive. At the present prices few working people can afford them, yet in spite of the charms of electricity, leave my cheapy road fire to read and rest by one's work time is good.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. J.—Glad to hear you are looking forward to the welcome to "your number." We are all hoping to see Mr. Alexander splendidly fit after his voyage to carry on the good work in the House of Commons.

M.—Try a small piece of bread in the centre of the pastry for the little tarts, and put the jam or marmalade on the outside of the "in" cooked. The same square of bread can be used again. It prevents the boiling over.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF MR. RENNIE SMITH, M.P., B.Sc.

TO THE READERS OF THE "SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR."

SANTA CLAUS will have to put in more overtime than usual this year if he is to get round to all his friends. And who is there, indeed, with whom he does not wish to be friendly? Dear me, what a world it would be if we could say the same of everybody!

But Santa Claus knows just as well as you or I do that we have had seven months of dreadful misgovernment in this country. When the Government has not mis-governed, it has failed to govern at all. It has to use one of its own miserable phrases, "Let things go."

With the result that we see. "Things" have gone steadily from bad to worse. In the mining industry more than a million workers and their families have been pushed further down into the abyss of bad conditions. Employers have lost their markets abroad. And not only in the mining industry. Every big industry has suffered heavily both in orders and wages, and not least the great iron and steel industry.

And everybody has to pay for this folly, not only in unemployment and lower wages, but in higher prices for coal and other things. There will be grates without fire this Christmas in Sheffield. There will be many a man and woman cursing his poverty and misery because of what should be a bed on the Christmas eve.

Santa Claus will look in on some sad sights. But he lives and thrives and grows only larger-hearted on the sights he sees. "I am told" "on authority," as they say in this solemn House of Commons, that the only time Santa Claus is moved to anger is when he sees unswerving and persistent suffering and misery.

To relieve that, with a heart of mercy and of love, is always a bitter humiliation of his personality, and I have heard of him, as I say, lashing himself into a fury as he has slipped over the chimney-ops of all this avoidable misery.

With a wise Prime Minister, with a little more sense, with a better Government, how few words would the coming of Christmas this year would be!

The wealthy class, in their blind folly, have ridden their horses, dragged the Government like a miserable hanging on a cart, behind, rough-shouldered over the lives of the people in this year 1920. Their hearts are bitter. They laugh in mockery at the "peace in our time" Prime Minister. They know him. They know his colour. They know that his words were words of sacrilege, of irony,

of all irreverence. The people bring their countless wounds, result of this Government onslaught of the wealthy, to Santa Claus to heal.

But they know perfectly well that it isn't the job of Santa Claus to nurse the wounded of this sorrowful industrial army. It is reserved for Santa Claus to deluge the world with kindness and love. His job will never be done. No one will ever dream of putting him on a pension. But it is for *you* themselves to be just to your *another*, and to *practice* justice. Santa Claus has enough to do without having all the folly of man's injustice pushed on to him as well.

Well, men's hearts will soften, become a little kinder, during the moments when the reindeer pass by their doors. How the tinkling of the little bells go thrilling through the lives of us all!

And those who mount the vision of social justice will come to us again. We shall see how it is possible for a people to have high wages, good conditions, and as much security as a short life which is limited by brother death can offer. We shall see how it is possible to get governments that can lead and direct the nation in the great affairs of its industry, even to the point of clearing coalminers out of the way, and if need be, putting them into prison for the good of their souls when they stand in the way of the nation's progress. We shall see both how good governments and a harmonious much-wealth-producing industrial system becomes possible. Not by miracle, we shall cry! Not by the loving excess of a little one at Christmestide! Not by action from the skies and beyond the Polar Star! No! Out of our own lives.

By our own intelligence. Out of our own strong wills and sense of justice. Out of the co-operative effort of a people. Ours, and nobody else's, neither now nor until Kingdom Come!

Out of us, the better government, the less stupid and brutal industrial system, the driving away of poverty, the approach of plenty and laughter and content.

Gladden us, the great act of social justice that broadens down from deed to deed with power irresistible.

Welcome, then, dear Santa! Make all hearts for a little while warm with kindness. And in that warmth shall be sown the seed of social justice and a new will to live. Social justice born again in men's lives! To be reaped in institutions and practices and new governments, later on. The anger of Santa Claus is dying down. He is even smiling, as he has done for 2,000 years.

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LUCK.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

By L. M. P.

It was a real Christmas Eve, snowing and trying to freeze, though the frost gave no impression on the shurped-up, busy slush of the city streets.

Dobson knew he'd get his feet wet before he ever stepped outside the office door. He knew he'd most likely get a cold that frosty breeze coming along fit to slip one in two, and then it would go through the house and no doubt over or three of them would be in bed over New Year with 'flu. That was always the way with colds. Somebody'd get one just at the wrong time—Dobson hadn't a cold at the moment. In fact, Dick Andrews had only that day told his hair well be looked; but Dobson, seeing the weather, felt sure he was going to have a cold, and anyway Dick was ever observant. He'd say you looked rosy even if you'd been dying of measles or anything else disgusting.

Andrews was a bachelor—a gay, irresponsible sort of chap, who lived in "digs," and went home for the "hals." So Andrews loved referring to his "hals" as if they were something.

Dobson knew it was all bounce. He shivered and buttoned up his overcoat preparatory to making a dive along the slushy street to his tram. He ought to have had a new overcoat; wished he'd got one a few weeks back,

but with Christmas coming on and the children and wife wanting things, there was no chance for father to have a new overcoat. Lucky if he got a new pocket handkerchief. What the wife and children wanted so much for he could not make out. Did she eat the money, or what? No matter what he turned over to her, it vanished. Dobson told himself he was a 'down-trodden, hen-pecked little worm; although Andrews, after spending an evening with the Dobsons, had said he liked to see a man holding his own in his own house.

"It was 'father 'this and 'father' that," Andrews had said before the office, and Dobson had felt rather complimented—naturally. "You never saw a man so master of his own place in your life." Dobson couldn't just now remember how lucked he had been about it: he only felt now that Andrews was a leaving gas. Andrews never observed details. It would do him good to have a wife who wanted a lot of money. She would soon knock the talk out of him.

The tram was full. That was just like Christmas Eve, thought Dobson, momentarily becoming more aggrieved with his cruel fate. Look at all these women. What did they want to be on the tram just now when the men were

coming home? Why the dickens couldn't they get out earlier and home earlier? They'd no right to be taking up the seats and littering the place up with babies and parcels. The babies should never have been brought at all. No good mother took her babies shopping on a snowy Christmas Eve. His wife never had done.

Dobson got a seat, but gave it up, because he had not the face to remain seated to a woman who, followed by three children, all hugging parcels in various degrees of being unwrapped, came rushing towards the car outside one of the big shops. She cut it as a matter of course, never even noticing the little man who rose and made way for her. Dobson sighed. Gratitude was a thing of the past in the present generation's season of madness.

The streets were athrong with people, snow-spattered and alight with electric flags outside the shops. Fearful waste, thought Dobson, that light. No wonder! stuff was dear if the shops squandered their money on such things.

He looked at the woman who had taken his seat—dressed in cheap evening quite unfitted for this weather. No doubt the children's feet were wet; all of them were sucking humbs and leaning over everybody. Festively disgusting. Why on earth had the conductor allowed them to get on? The tram had been full, and the conductor ought to have refused. It was always the same with conductors—never there when they ought to be. No, it was policemen, that wasn't it? Dobson's eyes were fixed on his left leg because his right foot was cramped between two baskets: he noticed an unplaced chicken and oranges in one of them. The tram slowed and Dobson lurched, nearly sitting down in the lap of a large female—not a lady, certainly—who was conversing loudly on the merits of pork and turkey. He hastily apologized, and was rewarded with a giggle. Some fool in the office—Andrews, so it was—had talked about the joy, the abandon, the hilarity of Christmas Eve. Dobson could believe it. Andrews, everybody seemed to have abandoned their usual decorum.

Dobson began to think about his home. Christmas Eve there meant stockings to be hung up, and shoutings up the chimney for all sorts of things. Though there was only two of them they could make as much row as twenty. Later they would want to eat oranges, and litter the place up, and his wife would say, "as it was Christmas" they might stay up a little and even when they were laid in bed, his wife would begin to tell him how much she had paid for everything, and that would put an edge on his nerves. Goodness knows things cost enough without being constantly reminded of it, and there was the rates in the New Year, and the insurances, and—

What a life. By the time Dobson had reached his stop he was in a thoroughly unweavable frame of mind, ready to bewail everything, and succeeding in tripping over a curbstone. Why the dickens didn't the corporation put a lamp at that corner? That was the worst of these new villa suburbs—half-made roads, no lights, and no decent curbs. Only edges for folks to fall over, and ash putts for the rain to make puddles in. Dobson had long meant to write to the council and complain: now he'd do so. His Christmas was likely to be spoilt, so he'd do his best to spoil somebody else's. The path was all white at present, a fine covering for the pot-holes underneath.

Dobson felt a trickle of water slide off his bowler down his back. He shivered. Yes, he knew he'd have a

cold, perhaps pneumonia, and if not rheumatics for the rest of his life. The snow had caught in his nose, going to be a fine black sleet with a jolly hard frost, which meant he'd have to make a sledge in the morning for the boy, and probably his finger, because his hammer or cut himself, or something. He always did.

He turned the corner to come, as it were, bump against the new moon. Confound the child! old new moon: what was that superstition about the thing? For the life of him he could not remember. Anyhow, it was a nuisance, because his wife would never let him go for sure, and she'd ask him if he had turned his money over. Aye, that was it. He stopped, telling himself he was a fool, and did not and never had, believed in such sort of thing. Dick Andrews would say. He'd believe anything. He'd believe the new moon would bring luck just as soon as the rank outsider would win against the favourite.

Dobson managed to bring out a handful of small change, which he laid out on his hand with the new moon shining on each coin, he diligently, but unobviously, turned them over one by one. Still holding the coins, he moved on towards home, and waited a moment. Had he missed any? Again he dived into his pocket and brought out a half-penny, which he gave reversed, and then put the lot back and rubbed his overcoat. Well, that was that.

"Bah! there's a pretty-fool, standing here getting my feet wet. anybody saw me they'd think I was a moron."

He went home to his neat little house in suburban, captained over by his capable and loving little wife. She met him at the door, and said:

"Oh, John, there's Mr. Andrews just slipped in to bring the children such lovely presents, but you are not to say anything to them, and—wait a moment. I suppose so Andrews was here, was he? Doing the large, buying presents for Peter and Joan, which he couldn't afford. Dobson missed what his wife was saying.

"Eh? What's that?" he asked. "Uncle Tom has written," she said, and it dawned on him she was excited, and looked very smart and rosy.

"Uncle Tom in Australia? What's he got to say?" Dobson was not very encouraging. He didn't approve of Uncle Tom very much, nor Australia either.

"Yes, and he's doing so well; he's sent a cheque for a hundred pounds—"

"Wh—how?" cried the astounded Dobson, pecking into the hallstand, and a wet bowler fell over his head to the floor.

She repeated it, and added: "Isn't it wonderful, darling? We'll be able to finish paying off the house and put the rest by towards a real live holiday."

"By gum!" cried Dobson, bereft of more elegant speech. Then he made a dart for the front door, stepping on the bowler hat that had fallen. He dashed on to the path to where he could see the new moon, and frantically plunged his hand into his pocket—

"Not again, old boy," said a voice behind him. "Don't tempt Providence."

"Andrews!"

"I saw you down the road just now, You old fox!"

Dobson was silent for a moment, then taking Andrews' arm and returning towards the house, he said:

"Sh! don't say a word. I'd never hear the last of it. Don't give me away—and stop it now weeks-end!"

Andrews did as they and the jolliest Christmas of their lives. But Dobson told no one of his tempting Luck.



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ATTERCLIFFE DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY

HELLO!

The best Labour Party dinner to date, under the auspices of the 1st Local Working Programme

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Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. "Wine & Cheese"	6d.
Wednesday, 8.30 p.m. "Members' Boston Meeting"	6d.
Thursday, 8.30 p.m. "Members' Social"	6d.
Thursday, 9.30 to 10.30 p.m. Select Dinner	6d.
Friday, 7.30 p.m. Open for Party Purposes	10d.
Saturday, 7.45 p.m. "Wine & Cheese"	1s.

Every SUNDAY EVENING at 7 a PUBLIC MEETING will be held.

PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER:

Dec. 2—Mr. J. Black of Leeds.

" 3—Mr. J. Black.

" 11—Mr. Ross Davies, M.P.

Secretary: Mr. F. THOMAS, 104, Greenhill Road, Duffell.

THOSE ALDERMEN!

BEFORE November it was very seldom that we saw an Alderman. That they were such elevated personages we all knew well enough, for they were referred to by name in the newspapers. In our minds' eye we picture them as fat and sleek (as large as a whole "corporation," in fact), in easy circumstances, and sleepy! They were men, we thought, without cares, and almost without duties. They said, and it was done.

Now all that is changed. They are not elevated and remote personages any longer, for we meet them along our streets and can enter no labour or co-operative meeting without finding at least a couple meekly behaving themselves as if they were merely men. They are not quite of the build we thought was essential for aldermen—at least, not all of them—for the ideal aldermanic figure is like this—



As may be seen from the above portraits, only three of the eight are physically built for the high office. With what a start of surprise, then, do we behold the other five constructed on this principle—



This may be considered the first "fallure" of the Labour Council, which apparently Mr. Current Topics has not yet thought of! By the way, there is a rumour that an extra Labour Whip has been appointed, and armed with a good-sized pin, with instructions to plunge it up to the hilt into the first Labour or Co-operative Alderman found asleep at the post of duty. He will not be needed, of course, for even the "Citizens' Aldermen" will not dare to fall asleep now. In fact, our men have brought new life into both Parliament and Council: they go

there to work, when so many others have gone from the desire for position and an easy time.

Any working man is now entitled to stop an Alderman in the street and talk to him! For citizens are wonderfully human—just like other husbands! One of them sent his wife away for a holiday long since, and he and his son stayed up at home—well, just like we do manage under such circumstances. A few days later the son got a letter from his mother, with the remark therein: "Look after your father; he's so help-less." It is not a bit of use asking each of the new Aldermen separately if he is the culprit; they will all deny it. All you can do is to watch which one of these blubbers when he replies. They will probably all do. Most husbands would, except those who have long ago conquered the fruits of blinding.

Round the oval table they and the councillors discuss their policy and weigh the pros and cons. A solitary woman (Councillor Mrs. Chestnut) is the diamond in the ring (which is only a figure of speech, of course), and there are so many in these days that the table is no longer large enough, with the result that one or two slip over on to chairs outside the oval. As they do quite candidly who writes this, I can be quite candid. They are interesting, they are earnest, they are amusing!

Alderman Wardley can't help but be amusing. He confounds a critic with a remark or two full of vim and comicality; he is a tiger with a sense of humour. He is one of the youngest present, if alertness, vigour, and love of adventure are marks of youth. They tell me that he can hardly be kept off a bicycle, and at his time of life! But with all his vivacity, it is hard to make him budge when he really plants his feet.

Then we have Alderman Humberstone, another veteran of the Old Guard, cast in

an entirely different mould. He is not gloomy by any means, but he carries the stamp of serious attention to business, along with a certain patience and kindness and the glint of a smile.

The chosen leader of the group is Councillor Knowles, whose tact and force are usually well to the fore. The contours of his face and his steely grey eyes give him an expression of excessive earnestness, slightly offset by a perky tilt of hair that is a godsend to the cartoonists of the local Press. If the Delilah of the "Citizens' Party" should find how much of the idea of strength was conveyed in that threatening tuft. But, then, he has no time for sleep.

I wonder how they came to waste Alderman Watkins on the Finance Committee? In a great drab and smoky city like this he would have been intelligent and invaluable, if only the Council should have instituted a new Committee for Helping People to Laugh Heartily, and made him chairman of it. Alderman Wardley should be vice-chairman, and Councillor Albert Smith the only other member. Some day of great portent we shall not bother so much about money, and we shall concern ourselves a great deal about life. It is to be hoped that Alderman Watkins will be available when that time arrives. When we have a municipal bank in every street, and no problem of rates, Alderman Watkins will give us something more precious than money: something that increases as it is given away!

There is no space to deal with them all. That charming and disarming comeliness of the little secretary of Alderman Beardsley, "Mr. Chairman, I—I," rather rapidly uttered, is the introduction to a sober and careful argument. Both he and Alderman Bancroft are typical aldermen.

I can never get away from a persistent impression that Alderman Wortley has been a colonel at some time or other; he is the most military type of the group. A little more reserved in temperament than Beardsley and Bancroft, he fills an aldermanic chair equally well.

Aldermen Aikin and Marshall—well, they will be dealt with on another occasion.

Alas, time let us wish them, aldermen and councillors, a very happy Christmas and a very successful New Year. They will be happiest, all of them, when Sheffield is growing healthier, its air purer, and its wealth more equitably distributed.

May I add that this is not written by Mr. Hesketh Pearson.

Cheerio!

with acknowledgment of the "Co-operative" and "The Sheffield Co-operator" for their kind notice.

No Use for Them.
The Irishman came home beaming.
"Bridget," said he, "Oh, you got a job."
"Oisy be!" said Bridget, who was tired of supporting the family.
"But you can earn me nightgowns," said he.
"Your nightgowns!" she whined in the best.
"Sure," said Pat. "I'm sure I can. I'm be wanting them when I've got a job on my side."
"I don't understand you," said the wife.

Obvious.
"Tint prisoner refuses to give his name," said a newspaper editor.
"I'm sure you are," replied the obnoxious man, "if you'll excuse me saying so."
"You're the change agent," said the editor.
"Stealing two thins and a tale," said the police officer.
"These you are," replied the obnoxious prisoner. "I'm a furniture restorer, and I'll give you the names of my customers."

At the Stores.
Lady: "Will you send this to the approval?"
Salesman: "Yes, indeed, madam."
Little daughter (who had held her pen until now): "Mother, hasn't you better let him be sure to get it there on time? I remember night, you know."

Seen Beloved.
The Mother: "I say, dad, I hardly know what to do with my week-end one here."
His Father: "Why not put a hat on it?"

Good Security.
The lawyer and his client were having their first interview. "Before we go any further," said the man of law, "how do you intend to pay my costs?"
"I've got a mule, a pig, and a few chickens," said the client, thoughtfully.
"I could raise a bit on them."
"Good," said the lawyer. "They will get on. Now what do they accuse you of stealing?"
"This time the client did not have to think. "I stole a mule, a pig, and a few chickens," he said glibly.

Not at Scarborough.
Debarge: "I wish I had come here a week ago."
Hotel Proprietors: "Ah! You are flatterer to your establishment."
Debarge: "What I mean is that I should have preferred to eat this fish three instead of now."

The Poll Tax.
The class had received a lesson on the Peasants' Revolt, and after the lesson had retired to write all they remembered of the rising. One small child wrote: "The cause of the Peasants' Revolt was that a killing position was put over everybody over nature."



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ALL THE NEWEST SHADES. MEN'S - from 39/6. YOUTHS' - 21/- BOYS' - 10/6

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Newest Shades and Designs. 75/-

LADIES' TAILORING by Experts.

Costumes from 4 gns. Coats from 8/0.

HATS AND CAPS. Distinctive Styles and Shades.

Caps, 2/6, 2/11, 3/6. Soft Felt, 7/6 to 14/6. Bowlers, 7/11 to 14/6.



CO-OPERATORS ON THE ALDERMANIC BENCH.
CO-OPERATIVE PARTY SUCCESS.

Amongst the new aldermen created as a result of the Labour victories on November 1st are two Co-operative Party representatives, Mr. W. Bancroft and Mr. T. H. Watkins, both representatives of the Neepsend Ward.

Alderman Watkins, the new chairman of the city Finance Committee, has suc-

Alderman Watkins' past dealing invariably with the sky debt, rates of interest, loans, &c. His whole experience and capacity fit him pre-eminently to administer the financial side of the city's affairs from a new point of view.

Undoubtedly he will be limited by the fact of our having a Tory Government, and burdened with a legacy of debt which has been created by the mis-government in our national affairs; but in spite of this, Watkins is tackling the job with the fullest confidence, and with every possibility of making a huge success of his new post. We heartily con-



ALDERMAN BANCROFT.



ALDERMAN T. H. WATKINS.

ceeded Alderman Blanehard as Sheffield's Chancellor of the Exchequer.

We have every confidence that he will add his new duties with the same efficiency that he has brought to bear on the Brightside and Carbrook board of management, in the N.U.R., and in the Council Chamber.

Alderman Watkins has spent the whole of his adult life dealing with figures. Employed in the local engineer's office of a big railway concern, he has specialised upon questions of co-operative, municipal, national, and even international finance. Our readers will have seen numerous articles in this journal from

graduate Alderman Watkins, and we are sure that our confidence in him will not be misplaced.

Alderman Bancroft, who has represented Neepsend Ward for six years, has also received justifiable promotion. His work on the Health Committee is best known to the people of Neepsend themselves, but there is not a single colleague on the Health Committee, supporter and opponent alike, who will not pay tribute to Bancroft's earnest devotion to this work.

He is now to take a more prominent part in the work, and, along with his membership on a number of other committees, we are confident that the work so nobly begun for the widows and orphans of the railwaymen will be continued through the Health Committee, the Old-Age Pensions Committee, the School Medical Service, and other social institutions, all of which work is dear to the heart of our new alderman. We must congratulate Alderman Bancroft not merely upon being promoted, but upon having earned his promotion by six years' assiduous devotion to the welfare of his fellows and of the city generally.

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

FOR THE CHILDREN.
THE THREE GIFTS.
BY MARGARET CARLTON.

Once there was a country most grievously mis-ruled, and the powerful Geni who watches all things unseen was very annoyed. At last he descended into the market-place and posted up notices that the King was deposed, and he summoned the three wisest men in the kingdom to meet him in the great hall before all the townspeople.

Thither they came, one of them tall and forbidding, carrying a sword, the second of them stooping and old, and the last one was plump and severe, and looked not at all like a wise man. They stood before the Geni, who said—

"This land is ill-governed; the people sigh and groan under the taxes; they fall dead in the streets—therefore I have deposed the King, and, dividing the kingdom into three parts, I give each of you one part to rule over. I will use you each one gift to assist your rule, and at the end of a year I will return so that I may judge of your ruling."

Then the tall man, with the sword stepped forward, and said he wanted Force to enforce his rule; and the second, old and stooping, came forward, asking for Wealth; and the plump man said he would have Justice to assist him.

"Granted," said the Geni, and vanished, leaving the wise men to go to their respective parts of the kingdom.

At the end of the year the Geni descended to earth again, and visited the domain of the first wise man. He walked through the streets unrecognised, nohing the hunted look on men's faces, the numerous soldiers, at whose approach the women and children fled. He heard cries and pleadings for "Mercy"; he saw homes from which the men had been dragged away to prison; he found fear and misery everywhere. This part of the kingdom was in a woful state then before because no man dared speak of the wrongs that were done for fear of the iron hand of the governor. Now and then the Geni heard whisperings of ambush and assassination, for this cruel governor had Force for his watchword.

He walked on to the palace, where the governor had hidden himself from the vengeance of his people behind many soldiers.

"You are deposed!" he cried, and passed on to the second part of the kingdom.

Here he found luxury and wealth on every hand. Though everyone had been equally wealthy at first, that was by no means the case now, because some had squandered their money, while others had hoarded it and taken advantage of those who squandered it. There was much trickery for the mere possession of wealth, and those who had none were the slaves of those who had. The rich no longer worked at all, while they who had none were starving. Every day there was some kind of fetu which meant

splendour and pleasure; there were feasts for which expensive foods had to be brought from far overseas, because these rich people thought it degrading to eat the plain, common food as did the slaves. It was a terrible country. Gold could buy anything, and no one thought of anything but the possession of gold and jewels.

The Geni entered the palace, where the governor was seated before a sumptuous feast, and dressed in absurd clothes of great splendour and wearing many jewels, with the glitter of which he tried to cover up his age.

"You are deposed!" cried the angry Geni, and with a heavy heart approached the last portion of the kingdom, which he had to visit.

Entering the chief city, he was amazed at the peace and quietness which pervaded everything, at the orderly townspeople, who were clean and well-dressed, and who went about their business with energy and cheerfulness. Everywhere he met with kindness and honesty; there was no grumbling about the taxes which had been levied to raise money to make the roads good, to care for the sick and the old, or to build schools and provide teachers for the children. Everyone paid them because they paid just their share and no more, and everyone had a share. There was no trickery in business, because it was most sternly put down; there were no lies told in the papers, because the State published the exact truth; there was no bribery, because everyone was paid for his just toil, whether of hand or brain; there was no fraud in the future, because if a man worked justly in his best days he was justly provided for by his after fellows when he was sick or old.

With joy returned to his heart, the Geni entered the palace of the wise man who had asked for justice to help him rule, and he found him, plain and severe as of old, seated before a frugal meal alone.

"You do not die as sumptuously as your neighbour," said the Geni.

"I die as my subjects die," said the wise man.

"It is well. Take thou also the second part of this kingdom, and rule it with justice."

The wise man bowed and thanked him.

"You do not entrench yourself with soldiers, as your first neighbour," said the Geni.

"Each man is his own guardian," said the wise man.

"It is well. Take thou also the first part of this kingdom, and rule it with justice."

The wise man thanked him and bowed, and when he raised his head the Geni was gone, and waiting on his doorstep were representatives from the first and second portions of the kingdom, dearing his instructions.

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LADIES' & GIRLS' BOOTS & SHOES.

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THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY will allow members

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WELLINGBOROUGH.

LOCAL LABOUR PARTY NOTES.

COUNCILLOR J. H. SKELTON asks us to convey the best thanks of himself and the Hillsborough Divisional Labour Party for the splendid help given in the recent by-election by the Hillsborough co-operators.

The Co-operative Party wishes to thank the Labour Party also for their assistance in the Hillsborough campaign on November 1st, when they had no official candidate in Wakeley.

The Hillsborough Labour Party dance held at the Co-operative Institute the other evening was a huge success, and already arrangements are in hand for a further series of dances, which serve not only as fine social gatherings, but help to raise funds to carry on the Party's propaganda work.

The Labour Hall at Sherds-road, Walkley, has been enlarged and re-located, and is now a splendid little "home from home" for all interested in the Labour cause. Council and Guardian reports are given at public meetings in the hall on the night of the City Council meetings, viz. first Wednesday in the month. We are asked to give a cordial invitation to all Walkley electors.

The Hallam Labour Party is to be congratulated on the splendid fight put up in Hallam, as well as in Crossborough. After Mr. MacDonald's speech in the House to which he told the Premier point blank that no Tory's seat was safe with less than a 4,000 majority, the Hallam Divisional Labour Party should be encouraged in their propaganda work. Even hangry Hallam is not impervious to commonsense Labour propaganda; and Sir Frederick Sykes, after all, does not fill the bill so far as thousands of Hallam people are concerned.

We are looking forward to the time when Hallam will join the other three constituencies now represented by Labour, and put in a really democratic representative. At any rate, the Hallam Labour Party is leaving no stone unturned, membership is growing, enthusiasm is at top pitch, and the organisation is under continual improvement.

By the way, we are asked to invite sympathisers to the Hallam Labour Party's monthly meetings. Programmes for the next two meetings in the Crookes Baptist Church, Malhouse-road, are as follows:—

December 16th.—Councillor E. C. Rowlinson, J.P., the popular leader of the Sheffield Labour Group; subject, "Labour and the Municipality."

January 20th.—Councillor A. Barton; subject, "The Money-mongers."

All Hallam friends are cordially invited to attend and to join up with the progressives in Hallam.

INTERVIEWS.

Neepsend.

The Neepsend public representatives, viz. Aldermen W. Bancroft and T. H. Watkins, Councillors J. Hawst, J. A. Longden, and W. Robinson, as well as the Guardians, Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Palmer, and Mr. J. Williams, are making arrangements whereby it will be possible for continued, regular interviews to see one or more of the representatives every Wednesday evening in the Neepsend Co-operative Institute, Main-street, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Hillsborough.

Councillor A. Barton will be pleased to see Hillsborough constituents needing advice or assistance at 46, Stannington-road, Main Bridge, any morning between 9 and 10 a.m.

Tinsley.

Tinsley constituents desiring interviews on municipal matters can see Councillor S. H. Marshall any Tuesday evening in the Tinsley Guild Room (over the branch stores), Bowtry-road, from 6 to 6.30 p.m.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS.

In response to inquiries regarding the actual position of the Co-operative Party so far as representation on public bodies is concerned, the following list will be of interest to our readers:—

PARLIAMENT.

Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P. (Hillsborough).

CITY COUNCIL.

Aldermen W. Bancroft and T. H. Watkins.

Councillors A. Barton (Hillsborough), J. Hawst (Neepsend), J. A. Longden (Neepsend), S. H. Marshall (Attercliffe), and W. Robinson (Neepsend).

SHEFFIELD BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

Mrs. S. E. Ager (Brightside), Mrs. S. E. Kennie (Attercliffe), Mrs. B. Palmer (Neepsend), Mrs. A. Speight (Walkley), Mrs. F. Ward (Darnall), and Mrs. Watkins (Neepsend).

ROTTERHAM BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

Mrs. B. A. Barringer (Tinsley) and Mr. E. R. Chambers (Tinsley).



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HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR.

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The WIGSTON HOSEIERS LTD.
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A GOOD BOOK.

A BOOK CLUB has been started at the Hillsborough Fellowship. Might we suggest that Councillor Barton's book, "A World's History for the Workers," is only one shilling, and is still the best primary book for giving a bird's-eye view of the history of the world from a worker's standpoint? As the "Co-operative News" said, "It is interesting as a novel." It can be got from the Fellowship bookstall.

Went! Do At All.

"Sneeze." "Now, dear, I'm going to tell you a story all about the Garden of Eden." "Minden Child!" "No, ma'am, please not that one. I don't think the Adonises were of all size people."

Anticipation.

An inspector of schools at Natal, South Africa, after inspecting a small farm school, situated at the mouth of one of the rivers on the coast, invited the boys to join him in a swim in the lagoon.

The boys accompanied him to the lagoon, eagerly watched him undress and go in, but themselves remained on the bank.

After a long and enjoyable swim, the inspector came out and proceeded to dress. He chuffed the boys for not coming in, and said: "I suppose you are afraid to bathe with an inspector?"

"No, sir," said one of the boys, "but we saw a crocodile in this lagoon yesterday!"

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NOW! at BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK the DRAPERY DEPARTMENTS.

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GLOVES - The Best of Presents

REAL NAPPA, Fur Lined - 6/11 per pair.
BEST QUALITY, Fur Trimmed 8/11 "

UMBRELLAS - SMART HANDLES AND REAL GOOD CLOTHS.

CHILDREN'S CUBBERIES - 3/11 to 7/11 each.
LADIES' CUBBERIES - A wonderful range is selected from: 5/11, 6/11, 7/11, 8/11, 10/6, to 21/- each.

HOSIERY of Yellable Quality, and explained if they fail to give you satisfaction.

"Three Queens" Hosiery, 3/11 per pair. This wonderful quality of Art Silk Hosiery in all colours. Also,

"Three Fancies," 1/11; "Three Bells," 7/11 1/2 per pair.

FURS of EVERY DESCRIPTION, SELECTED SKINS and RELIABLE QUALITY.

Marten Opsonm Necklets, 14/11, 19/6, 29/6, 39/6.
Red Marton Necklets, 6/5 Eas. to 21/5 1/2.
Red Fox Necklets, 29/6, 39/6, 49/6 to 10 guineas.

Spatees, Scarves, Hand Bags, Handkerchiefs, Silk Hosiery, Jumpers, Cardigans, Art Silk Skirts, Tea Coles, Cushions, Sideboard Covers, Ducheese Sets, Table Covers, Cushion Covers, Blankets, Sheets, Quilts, Bedspreads, Carfins, &c.

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Every Co-operative should give this goods a trial. Sure to give satisfaction. Made under the best conditions and supplied at Your Own Sweetness.

ASK FOR **ASHFIELD BRAND** HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR.

DIVIDEND ON ALL PURCHASES.

MR. A. V. ALEXANDER'S AUSTRALIAN TOUR.

RELATIONS WITH THE MOTHER COUNTRY.

MR. A. V. ALEXANDER'S tour as a member of the Empire Parliamentary Delegation has not by any means been a very holiday trip. He has used every opportunity to get in touch with the people of Canada, New Zealand, and other countries, in view of developing trade and increasing opportunities for cheaper food supply, better trading relationship, and security for emigrants.

Canada.
Regarding Canada, Mr. Alexander does not get a fair share of Canadian business. He gives as an example the National Exhibition at Toronto, which is held annually, and where there is only a very small percentage of British exhibits. Yet Mr. Ferguson, the energetic Premier of Ontario, is exceedingly anxious to give greater scope to British exhibits.

Tariffs. Mr. Alexander speaking in Australia, Mr. Alexander advocated the idea of Australia endeavouring to be a self-sufficing country of its own. He spoke strongly against a policy of tariffs, and asserted that the result of protection had been a vicious circle of wages chasing prices, and prices chasing wages, and that the ideal way in Australia was nothing like the standard of the nominal wage would not be to believe. He advocated Australia becoming, not a self-sufficing country but a component part of a powerful self-sufficing empire.

He pointed out in one of his speeches that autonomy for the Dominions might do all right for political relationships, but that it was something of an anomaly from the viewpoint of economic relationships.

Australia and the Co-operative Movement.

In another speech, Mr. Alexander dealt with the relationship of the co-operative movement with Australia. He pointed

out that the capital of the retail societies of this country was round about £8,000,000, and that the paid-up capital invested in the Wholesale was £3,000,000. He mentioned that 40,000 acres of tea estates are owned by the two Co-operative Wholesale Societies in India and Ceylon; that there are depots in Denmark, West Africa, and Nigeria; and that so far as Australia is concerned the co-operative movement is extremely anxious to improve the already amicable trading relationship which exists. Pointing out that the co-operative movement is probably the largest single buyer of dried fruits in the United Kingdom, fruit purchases, however, will depend on the quality and grading of Australian produce. What we are purchasing a certain quantity of butter and cheese from Australia, Denmark and New Zealand are well liked because of their continued improvement in grading and regularity of supplies.

Co-operation Keeps Prices Down.

At Sydney, Mr. Alexander spoke at a luncheon given in his honour by the Wholesale and retail co-operative societies of New South Wales. He quoted at some length from the last report of the Tariff Board, in support of his argument that Australia was threatened with a grave economic crisis in the near future. The report pointed out that in the effort to protect industry against overseas competition, increases in wages and increases in tariff were simply moving in a vicious circle, and the end could only mean economic disaster for the Commonwealth. "It is quite evident," he said, "that in Australia you are suffering from the same economic troubles as we have in our own country. The worker, in obtaining a higher wage, is simply moving in a vicious circle. There is always the rise in prices, and for the worker things move in a

vicious circle. But I say that the best remedy is not an attack on wages, but an attack on the disparity between the costs of production and the price paid by the consumer. That is where our movement fulfils its destiny in the present economic position. In England the



MR. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., met with Mr. W. McCrossin, Premier of Queensland, the greatest bulwark against economic disaster has been the consumers' co-operative movement. We have been able to prove conclusively—although it must be reiterated—we started out with ideals other than trade—that we have been able, again and again, to keep the prices for necessary commodities lower to the community, in addition to distributing the middleman's profit among the consumers. The effect of this on the community has been both stabilizing and steady." (Applause.)

Co-operation and Unemployment.

After dealing with the history and development of the co-operative movement, the speaker expressed regret that only one-seventh or one-eighth of Britain's retail trade went through co-operative organisations. Had it been more, he believed that much of England's unemployment would be eliminated. He deplored the fact that in Australia, where the total wages bill was probably considerably over £500,000,000 per year, the turnover of the co-operative societies was only about £4,750,000. The Australian societies had done good work, but there was a great deal more to be done. Co-operation increased the effective purchasing power of the community, and unless that purchasing power was increased in the near future, Australia would have to face serious times. "I am quite persuaded," Mr. Alexander added, "that in Britain we would never have weathered the storms of depression in the way we have done, had it not been for co-operation." He urged the retail societies to avoid lack of loyalty to their central institution. Every penny spent outside the movement was against their own ultimate interests. The time would come when they would be faced with a bitter fight against private enterprise, and then they only hope would be their central organisations. It behoved them to support it in every possible way, for in it lay their salvation.

Cut Out the Middleman.

Dealing with sources and supply of goods, he urged the local wholesale society to branch out into production for itself as soon as it could, and also to deal directly with the producers. They had been successful in direct dealings with primary producers in Britain, and had effected tremendous savings to the consumer as a result. As an instance, they had marketed New Zealand produce in England, cutting out all commission and middleman's profits, getting the primary products direct to the consumer, and sharing the profits between consumer and producer. He has seen the excellent machinery by which Australia's produce was sent overseas and marketed there. Surely this machinery could be utilised in enabling the co-operative concern to market the produce in the home market, savings could be effected if it could only

be managed. He expressed the hope that soon the British and Australian co-operative concerns could deal directly with each other, to the mutual benefit of both countries. Mr. Alexander concluded by expressing the hope that the societies of this country, from what he had seen of them, would make the movement just as successful, if not more successful, than the Old Country. They had only to retain their ideals and to constantly strive to fulfil them.

Financial Relationships.

Speaking at the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Alexander dealt with the financial relationships between Great Britain and Australia. He believed that the impression left upon the minds of delegates was that there was no sounder investment for anyone wanting a piloted security than in Australia. If money were being invested under the provisions of the Colonial Stock Act, for instance, it was obvious that those in charge of trust funds would examine the position very closely. It was fully covered in Australia's capital development and future potentialities; but what the trustees looked for was a proper amortisation of public debts. When the whole financial picture of Australia was in line on this subject—and he was pleased at what had already been done—he had no doubt that there would be a flow of trust money and funds into the public loans of Australia.

Quality and Regularity of Supply.

Mr. Alexander went on to emphasize the desirability of closer contact between those responsible for the commercial policies of Great Britain and Australia. Australia, he said, must have a great and expanding market overseas for its products, and for this co-operation was needed in decisions regarding which industries should be fostered in Great Britain, and which in the Dominions.

Migration.

Speaking in the Federal Parliament of Australia, Mr. Alexander dealt with the question of migration. He said that it was perfectly certain that the people of Great Britain generally would never stand for a policy by which migration from its shores to countries within the Commonwealth of nations would involve any possibility of the migrants being deprived of a proper standard of living in proper conditions. The British Labour Party would never consent to such a plan. He added that the financing of some of the land settlement projects bore very hardly on those who came to Australia to settle on the land. Much was heard about the need for British men and women to migrate and face the privations of new countries; but the fact remained that the migrants to-day were not prepared to accept the conditions forced upon their predecessors. The best method was the extension of the present settlement system, with some adjustments as to finance. If, as a migrant, he was called upon to pay 7 per cent. interest on borrowed money, he would feel that the people who were successful, he had at the same time great chances of failure.

Conditions Must Be Improved.

Speaking later on this matter, Mr. Alexander said the first thing necessary was more markets for Australian products, and the second some scheme of finance for new settlers which did not press so heavily on the shoulders of the people said that migrants should go out and face the hardships and risks of their forefathers, he replied that in the light of modern conditions, people were prepared to accept the conditions to which men and women of sixty years ago were compelled by economic necessity to submit. He said he wished to see people from his district—Sheffield—go out to face conditions that were heart-breaking. He thought the best method would be to have a system of group-settlement scheme, with some adjustments in respect of finance. In West Australia the scheme was admirable in many ways, but interest charges were too high.

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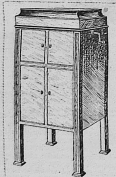
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