



# GUARDIANS' ELECTIONS. WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR.

BY COUNCILLOR W. ASBURY.

The Co-operative and Labour Group, in spite of its having been in a considerable minority during the last three years, has consistently worked in the best interests of the poor people of the city, whilst practising all reasonable economy in so far as they have been responsible in administration.

### Protest Against the Rota System.

The amalgamated board was started on its anticipated stony career by the anti-Labour majority putting into operation a system of rotating relief committees, the effect of which was that each member of the board was booked to attend a different committee every week. In pursuance of our previous policy, endorsed by the old Sheffield board—of stationary committees combined with the right of the individual member to administer relief for the ward he or she represented—we put up a strenuous fight against this proposal realising that it was intended to cloak the meanness of our hard-faced opponents who were not prepared to meet their own constituents in their own wards. Another effect was virtually to disfranchise the people in those wards where a full quota of Co-operative and Labour representatives had been elected. It meant that recipients of relief, when their cases were reviewed, had to appear before a different committee each time, and although the same circumstances may have been operative on each occasion the intention was to reduce the amount given by a previous committee if at all possible, everything being dependent, of course, upon the mental outlook of the particular Guardians who sat for any particular day. And I may say that it is amazing how often the amount of relief is sufficient!

### Co-operative and Labour Group on Strike.

It will be remembered we took the drastic step of refusing to function under these conditions with the result that eventually a compromise was arrived at, and instead of a different committee sitting every week, the same committee now sits for four weeks. This enables us to preserve some degree of continuity in policy.

This was the utmost we could secure out of the anti-Labour Party, and in the interests of our unfortunate brothers and sisters, who have the misfortune to fall on evil times, we accepted the proposals in order that we might at least protect them from the insults which are so often heaped upon their heads by certain officious Guardians.

### Relief on Loan Repayment.

We have also succeeded in mitigating the hardship involved to some extent in connection with the repayment of relief granted on loans to the miners, engineers, and others during the disputes in which they were engaged. We succeeded in persuading the board to put into operation a resolution of the old Sheffield board whereby no man receiving less than 45s. per week was expected to make any repayment. This figure was much too low, but it was all the anti-Labour majority would concede, and since this time, unfortunately, the

figure has been still further reduced to 35s. 50 far as the miners are concerned.

### Work for the Unemployed.

As soon as the new amalgamated board met we put forward comprehensive proposals for dealing with the large number of unemployed, and suggested that the Corporation be requested to put in hand work of public utility at the earliest possible moment, and in such a manner as would insure a weekly wage at the recognised rates for the city to the men so employed. We further proposed that the Guardians should undertake to contribute the amount the men would have received in relief towards the cost of the scheme.

If our proposal had been adopted and the usual grants obtained by the Corporation from the Unemployment Grants Committee, the city would have had the benefit of the whole time labour of a large number of men, with an actual saving on current expenditure. Moreover, the men would have received a weekly wage of money for their labour enabling them to maintain their self-respect as worthy citizens. The moral effect of this also is eminently worth while for it would have enabled the workers to maintain mental and physical efficiency in readiness for the time when they could be again absorbed into normal industry.

One would have thought that even the Citizens' Association would be able to appreciate the advantages of this scheme. As a matter of fact, however, they could only see in it an attack on private enterprise of which they are such stout defenders. They shelved the matter when it was first introduced, and eventually put into operation an arrangement compelling men to work just long enough to cover the amount of relief received. This was not our scheme at all and we opposed it on the ground that after long periods of unemployment the amount of relief granted did not ensure the physical efficiency necessary to make this work of any value whatever.

In so far as the scheme was operated we pressed for the men to receive tram tokens to go to and from work, and in addition, to get a further concession that where the men's boots were in a bad condition they were permitted to work extra time to pay for new boots.

### Widows' Pensions Act.

With the coming into operation of the Widows' Pensions Act, some of our opponents on Relief Committees actually persuaded a number of widows on receipt of their first payment of Pension, by reducing the amount of relief in addition to deducting the amount of pension received. We compelled them to attend a special board meeting and the majority of the cases complained of

were put right, also the right of appeal was established (a right which had not previously existed) to recipients of ordinary relief against decisions which they considered were unjust.

### Packet Money for Orphan Children.

The children under the care of the Guardians, numbering about 550, are now having a holiday at the seaside each summer. An allowance of pocket money has also been agreed upon, to be based on a graduated scale, commencing at 1d. per week at five years of age, with a maximum of 6d. at fourteen. These little advantages are greatly appreciated by the Co-operative and Labour representatives. We venture to assert that it is impossible to do too much for these children, who for various reasons have been denied the love and individual attention which the average parents bestow on their own children, and further, we claim that these decisions are the outcome of Labour persistency over a number of years in this direction. The fact is, however, that when these schemes were put forward in the first place all kinds of difficulties were put in the way and the proposals were turned down time and again.

### An Infamous Circular.

I should like to draw the attention of the public to the infamous Circular No. 703, issued in 1926 by the Ministry of Health, in which was set out the instructions to Boards of Guardians to abrogate their statutory duty to relieve destitution. In fact the effect was to ask the Guardians to take definite sides against the working-class.

The Merthyr Tydfil judgment was held by our opponents to apply to the miners, the Ministry's contention in this respect being accepted, with the result that no miner was allowed relief. It was only after a struggle that we succeeded in securing in the case of those married, 12s. per week for the wife and 4s. per week for each dependent child. Instances of hardship in the case of widowers were brought to our notice, and we persuaded the board to extend the payment of 12s. to adult daughters or other persons who might be regarded as acting in the capacity of housekeepers. Even then, all the relief scales was granted on loan.

### Two Grades for Unemployed.

With regard to those unemployed as a result of the Miners' Dispute, the Ministry insisted that they should be relieved on a lower scale than that in operation for those unemployed before the General Strike, but at the Ministry decided where the present writer attended as a member of a deputation, we understood that this

was only to apply for the period of the General Strike. In spite of this undertaking, however, we regret to state that there are still a number of cases where a differentiation is made. We have protested on numerous occasions against this anomaly.

### A Graduated Prosecution.

We had to take the unusual course of giving evidence against the board in the case of a man prosecuted because his children had been supplied with free meals at school and he had not reported it to the relieving officer. The extraordinary thing about this prosecution was that whilst our opponents admitted that this had not been the usual practice for recipients of relief to report anything received, except actual cash, and that no deductions had hitherto been made where children were having free meals, yet none of our opponents were prepared to give instructions for the withdrawal of the summons.

Although the man was bound over the magistrates passed some rather caustic comments on the methods of the board. We afterwards endeavoured to secure a resolution that deductions should not be made in these cases. This was opposed, although the chairman of the board was a member of a sub-committee of the education committee which had to deal with free meals, and had agreed on a scale of income which permitted the children of an artisan in receipt of relief to be supplied with these meals.

### Meanness with the Mental Defectives.

Under the Lunacy Act, 1890, it is permissible to give mental patients out on trial from a mental hospital, a money allowance in order to maintain themselves, and as a result of Labour pressure on the Mental Hospitals Board, this system has been considerably extended, but we have received complaints that in certain cases where other members of the same family are in receipt of relief from the Guardians, this allowance has been taken into account, and the amount of relief correspondingly reduced.

We, of course, vigorously protested against this deplorable meanness, and even the anti-Labour majority were so ashamed that they did not attempt to defend the conduct of their colleagues who had been in so contemptuous treatment of the poor in this particular respect. Subsequently, instructions were given that these money allowances were to be excluded from deduction in the future.

### Vote Co-operative and Labour.

The above are a few instances indicative of the general policy of the present majority on the Sheffield board. As stated at the outset, the Co-operative and Labour group is prepared to practice the utmost economy in spending the citizens' money, but we must have regard to the poverty and consequent suffering which our people are experiencing. We want as far as possible, to bring a spirit of humanitarian service into this public work. It is because we are confident we can do this that Co-operative and Labour candidates in nearly every Ward in the City are being put forward for the support of the workers on April 2nd.

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## WHO TO VOTE FOR ON APRIL 2nd.

### HILLSBOROUGH WARD.

The progressive parties in Hillsborough three years ago allowed the citizens a walk-over in the Guardians' elections. Their position is, however, to be challenged on this occasion, and to be challenged in no uncertain way, for the Co-operative Party have been fortunate in securing three splendid candidates to uphold the workers' cause this time.

#### Mr. JAMES GILL

—ex-schoolmaster of the Wadley Bridge Council School, a fourteen years' member of the Brightside and Carbrook Board of Management, an active worker on behalf of the Guild of Help and, subsequently, the Sheffield Council of Social Service—is just the man to replace any one of the present Guardians, none of whom can claim to have had anything like Mr. Gill's experience, or to be half so well fitted for the position of Guardian. When the reports of the Poor Law Commission were issued many years ago, Mr. Gill was one of the first members of the Sheffield executive. The organization, known as the Society for the Prevention of Destitution, under Councilor Minshall's chairmanship, did much to popularise the constructive proposals of the Minority Report. Mr. Gill was treasurer of this organisation for many years. He holds that the present Poor-Law system is antiquated and out-of-date, reforms in this connection are long overdue, and whilst Mr. Gill will do all he can to administer the present law as humanely as possible, he is of opinion that the work should be transferred to other authorities and freed from the taint of pauperism. No argument about "sending up the rates," or "Bolshevik socialists," will be of any use to Mr. Gill's opponents. His keen business mind and his long and worthy service in the cause of the people will give the lie to any charge of this description in his case. The Hillsborough electors are to be congratulated on their choice of Mr. Gill as the Co-operative and Labour candidate.

#### Mr. W. SHEFFIELD.

who has now plenty of leisure time to give to Guardianism, has lived for the last twenty-five years in the Hillsborough Ward. He is an old Labour stalwart, having been a member on the executive of the old Federated Trades and Labour Council with such colleagues as the late Charles Hobson, Robert Holmesbank, Thomas Marker, John Davison, Tom Shaw, Alderman Wardley, and others. Even in those days Mr. Sheffield was asked to stand for the Guardians

when the late Weyliffe Wilson was chairman, but pressure of other work prevented him giving his service at that time. For the last forty-five years he has been an active member of the Druids and is at present a trustee for a Friendly Society with over 5,000 members. Mr. Sheffield was first national president of his trade union, the Wire-drawers' Society. He is a keen co-operative. In his adult life, and all his experience has been amongst the workers and in the Hillsborough Ward. Hillsborough electors should see to it that the services of their neighbour, Mr. Sheffield, are used to the full by electing him as a Guardian on April 2nd.

#### Mrs. E. SALMON

is a member of the Sheffield Pensions Committee and in this capacity has done a good deal of useful visiting work calculated to help her in the new sphere in which she is seeking to serve. She has always been an active Co-operator and Labour worker. Recently she has done a good deal of speaking for the Co-operative and Labour movements. She is remarkably well-informed on current political and economic questions, and she has always followed the work of the Guardians and the City Council with the keenest possible interest. Her womanly sympathy and common sense will serve the Hillsborough electors well. As she is the only woman candidate for Hillsborough on this occasion we make a special appeal to the women to give her their full support on April 2nd.

### NEEPSSEND WARD

#### Mrs. B. PALMER,

the retiring Guardian for Neepsend, is again seeking work amongst her neighbours whom she has served with consummate skill and sympathetic attention for three years. Fortunately her work is best known in the ward for which she is standing and we are sure that the Neepsend electors will not allow a spirit of apathy to defeat a representative after their own heart. The Citizens' Association has, in fact, found difficulty in securing candidates with courage enough to stand up against Neepsend's trio, as will be seen by only one opponent putting in an appearance.

#### Ald. T. H. WATKINS

is taking the place so worthily held for three years by his wife who has been compelled to resign for health reasons. It is an axiom that if you want a job doing the busy man is the likeliest to do it for you. Alderman Watkins' splendid work as chairman of the Sheffield City Finance Committee has resulted in an increase in the social services of the city. Alderman Watkins is just the type of man to bring to bear his business acumen upon Poor-Law administration. If there are any extravaganzas, if there are any unaccountable anomalies, Alderman Watkins can be trusted to root them out and to put our Poor-Law system on a sound business basis, whilst at the same time attending to the best interests of the poorest of our fellows.

#### Mr. J. WILLIAMS

—the retiring Guardian—is again standing for election. His record is something of which to be proud. His attendance during his three years of office has equalled 98 per cent. of the attendances possible; and this is saying a good deal when it is remembered that Mr. Williams when it is remembered that he is an practically every important sub-committee of the Guardians. He fought strenuously against the drafting of boys under the care of the Poor-Law into the Army and Navy, contending that the boys under their care should have the same opportunities of a civilian life and of becoming proud and worthy citizens as those more fortunate children who

have parents to look after their future well-being. The unemployed man of Sheffield has no better friend than Mr. Williams, who during the whole period of his office has been pressing for work of a utilitarian character at trade union rates, instead of task work or "dikes." He contends, however, that unemployment is a national responsibility for which the Government should provide. Whilst giving of his very best in Poor-Law work, he is of opinion that the constructive proposals of the Minority Report ought to be put into operation in lieu of the present system. Mr. Williams is a vigorous advocate of the workers' cause, and has served them so faithfully and well that we have no doubt they will give him a renewal of their confidence on April 2nd.

### WALKLEY WARD.

#### Mrs. A. SPEIGHT,

who has had six years' experience on the Sheffield Poor-Law Board, needs no recommendation to the Walkley people. Her work on the Children's Committee on behalf of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, her work in the Co-operative Movement, and her general attendance to duty as a past Guardian will surely guarantee her return on April 2nd.

#### Mr. IBBOTSON

her colleague, has also given unstinting service on the Sheffield Board. A plain, outspoken man of the people, Mr. Ibbotson has always lent a sympathetic ear to those needing assistance. He has made this work the be-all and end-all of his life. He lives in the ward, knows the residents personally and ought to be assured of a thumping majority on April 2nd.

### SHARROW WARD

#### Mrs. J. BURTON,

the Co-operative and Labour candidate for the Sharrow Ward, is a co-operator of many years standing. She has been a member of the Council of Social Service for four years, a visitor for the Joint Hospitals Council for four years, and a member of the voluntary Care Committee of the Mentally Defective. This work has given Mrs. Burton deep insight into the requirements of the poorest of the people. She has always been keenly interested in political and local government work. This, coupled with her experience and her keen sympathy with the people, will make her an excellent representative for Sharrow.

Her colleague,

#### Mr. JENKINSON,

can also claim a long experience in social work. He has been a resident in the Sharrow Ward for many years past and has had plenty of opportunity to study and appreciate the needs of the people in that area. We trust that Mrs. Burton and Mr. Jenkinson will secure the confidence of the Sharrow electors on April 2nd.

### BRIGHTSIDE WARD

#### Coun. W. ASBURY

needs no introduction to the electors of Brightside. His record of work on the Guardians and on the City Council is well known to need enumeration. His article on the front page of this issue is indicative of the policy for which he stands.

#### Mr. W. SCOTT,

who has already served three years on the Guardians, will make a worthy colleague of Mr. Asbury.

**Mrs. S. E. AGER,** who has spent the whole of her adult life in service for the workers, particularly in the Co-operative wing of the workers' movement, is also well-known in the Brightside Ward. She has already served six years on the Guardians, and for three years was chairman of the Children's Homes Committee. She has had more than ten years' experience of business management on the board of the Brightside and Carbrook Society, and, in addition to the purely public work, she has given literally hundreds of personal interviews to people requiring advice and assistance.

Brightside has three worthy, well-tried candidates, and we opine that the electors are not desirous of a change but will prove their confidence in these three stalwarts by putting them at the head of the poll on April 2nd.

### BURNGREAVE WARD.

#### Mrs. TEBBUTT

is a member of the Labour Women's Advisory Council and has spent some time as educational secretary of that body. She has always taken a keen interest in child welfare and maternity work, and prior to the formation of the Council of Social Service in these three wards of the Sheffield Guild of Help.

#### Mrs. CUMMING

—an educated teacher—has given splendid service to the people of Sheffield as a co-opted member of the City Education Committee. Her work on the School Medical Service and as a member of the Nursery School Sub-Committee, in addition to her active interest in the workers' education generally, has given her valuable experience which will serve the people in good stead.

#### Mr. FURNISS

is an old Labour stalwart who can be calculated to administer the Poor-Law in the best interests of the people.

Burngreave is fortunate in its selection of three worthy candidates, and somewhat anomalous that whilst the ward has been represented for many years by Labour councillors and is Parliament by a Labour member, the quality of Guardian electors has given Mr. Tarry opponents their opportunity. It is to be hoped that with three such splendid candidates Burngreave electors will do their duty on April 2nd, in which case Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Furniss, and Mrs. Tebbutt will undoubtedly represent the ward after April 2nd.

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## THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT TO-DAY.

SPECIAL FOR CO-OPERATORS.

Even since 1844 the co-operative movement has been growing throughout the country. Its present strength and magnitude are revealed by the Co-operative Union's latest statistics. These show that at the end of 1925—

- (1) There were about 1,300 co-operative societies in Great Britain and Ireland.
- (2) These societies had a total membership of 5,188,728.
- (3) The share capital of the societies amounted to over £100,000,000 (one hundred millions).
- (4) The retail trade of the movement amounted to over £184,879,902 per annum.
- (5) The surplus for the members in the year amounted to over £20,000,000 (twenty millions).
- (6) Over 200,000 workers were employed under good conditions by co-operative societies in this country.
- (7) The societies devoted nearly £50,000 to educational and charitable purposes during the year.

Since 1863 the co-operative movement has divided five hundred million pounds (£500,000,000) among its members in the form of dividends on their purchases. This wealth, without the society, would have gone into the hands of a few.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society is one of the greatest businesses in the world.

At the end of 1926 the society possessed a capital of approximately £50,000,000, it employed over 35,000 workers, and during the year its turnover amounted to over £75,000,000.

Over five millions of working men and women are already members of co-operative societies. If all these people find it advantageous to be co-operators, surely membership will be no less beneficial to others also.

### Co-operative Insurance Society.

This society, which was founded in 1866, is a purely co-operative undertaking, controlled by co-operators, which exists to benefit the co-operators who take advantage of the services it provides.

The society now undertakes all kinds of Life and Fire Assurance, as well as Industrial Life Assurance and General Insurance (including Burglary, Plate Glass, Horse, Motor and Motor Cycle, Personal Accident Insurance, &c.), and is now one of the largest national insurance agencies. In 1926 its premium income amounted to over £5,318,000, and the total claims paid by it amount to over £7,500,000. In 1926 alone the claims paid amounted to over £1,337,000.

### Co-operative Banking.

The Co-operative Bank is the bank department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which has fifty-five years' banking experience. Deposits and withdrawals can be made through practically every co-operative society.

The C.W.S. Bank is always ready to afford them every assistance in connection with drafts, investments, safe custody, foreign business, financial opinions, letters of credit, passports, and many other useful services which a bank can render. Its security is good, for behind the bank stands the great C.W.S.

The growth of the bank has been remarkable. At the end of its first quarter the total assets were £8,957,000; the bank now deals with over 20,000 current and 35,000 deposit accounts, the numbers of which are increasing daily and rapidly.

The turnover of C.W.S. Bank operations reached the colossal figure of £92,000,000 in 1926.

Trade unions, clubs, institutes, and all working-class organisations formed for the betterment of their members, which are not yet banking with the C.W.S. should see the advisability of doing so.

### Retail Trade.

In 1926 the retail trade of the co-operative amounted to £184,879,902.

It should be the duty of all co-operators to make at least, one new member every week.

All co-operators should read their own Press for the truth and knowledge of the development of their own movement.

### Something of Note.—A Tea Truth.

During the "tea scare" of 1925, consumers of co-operative tea—through the refusal of the English and Scottish C.W.S. to raise prices or vary quality—saved £400,000.

Successive Government commissions have reported that co-operators realise higher surpluses on the distribution of coal and meat, better returns per sack of baking flour, and are more efficient millers than their rivals in private trade.

### Co-operative Wages.

In the period of January–November, 1926, the Ministry of Labour recorded net reductions of nearly £89,000 in the wages of 813,000 workpeople. During 1926 there was an increase of £151,030 in the wages bill of the co-operative movement.

The C.W.S. adopted the principle of a minimum wage in 1906—three years before the first Trade Board was passed.

The first minimum wage obtained for women by legislation was 11s. 3d. per week. The first minimum wage given to women by co-operators was 17s. per week.

### Employees' Conditions.

Co-operators were pioneers in 1912 of the shop assistants' weekly half-holiday. The forty-eight and the forty-four-hour weeks have been obtained for co-operative shopkeepers by agreement, and the results justify the demand that general shop hours should be regulated by legislation.

At present 30,000 co-operative employees are in superannuation schemes, and schemes to include another 60,000 employees are under consideration.

### A New Food Combine.

The purchase of all the ordinary shares in the International Tea Company by Mr. Harold Cooper is regarded as the first step towards the formation of a huge food trust. The scheme is to secure the amalgamation of a number of leading multiple shop companies, and by these means to offer keener opposition to the co-operative societies. A meeting has been held recently in London to discuss this scheme, and further meetings are to be arranged.

Co-operators will meet this attack very effectively, by their loyalty will frustrate the work of private enterprise. Co-operation alone is the only hope.

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# REDUCING THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED. HOW IT IS DONE.

The "Ministry of Labour Gazette" is Government publication. The February issue makes this announcement—

Under the provisions of the Widows, Orphaned and Old-Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925, all persons aged 65 and over ceased to be insured under the Unemployment Insurance Act as from January 2nd, 1928. The estimate of the numbers of insured persons in each category, prepared on the basis of the information obtained from the exchange of unemployment books in July, 1927, was therefore then revised to exclude persons aged 65 and over, who, it is computed, numbered approximately 252,600 men and 24,000 women. Such persons no longer appear in the statistics showing the number of insured persons recorded as unemployed, and the figures for that subsequent to January 2nd, 1928, are therefore not comparable with those for earlier dates. The number of insured persons aged 65 and over whose names were deleted at the beginning of January did not exceed 30,000, and a proportion of these continued to register as unemployed persons.

The Government's figures will for the future show a diminution in the number unemployed. This will not necessarily mean any improvement in trade or any enlargement of the area of employment. It simply means that men aged 65 and over, who until recently received unemployment benefit and who are now

getting a much smaller allowance in the form of a contributory old-age pension, are no longer registered as unemployed, though they are still out of work and in a condition of great need. On the Government's own showing, the figures should have an addition of at least 30,000 so that approximately correct comparisons may be made.

**Local Hardship.**

Not only are those over sixty-five years of age being deprived of unemployment benefit but they are denied sickness benefit in the case of illness. A local few days ago. An insured man, sixty-seven years of age, with valvular disease of the heart and bronchitis, and a wife aged sixty-nine, bedfast as a result of nervous breakdown, had been in receipt of sickness benefit and poor relief, totalling 25s. per week. On each of those receiving the contributory old-age pension the poor relief was cut off completely, so that they were 5s. poorer. On representations being made, poor relief to the amount of 3s. 6d. has been granted. Here is a case of gross hardship. This old couple, poor and incapacitated, were first 5s. per week and then 2s. 6d. per week worse off in consequence of this very measure. How long are the people going to tolerate these conditions?

One of the first duties of the next Labour Government will be to put an end to these injustices.

## Sheffield Co-Operator.

APRIL, 1928.

### CO-OPERATORS AND THE GUARDIAN ELECTIONS.

The election of the Sheffield Board of Guardians, which will take place shortly, is of supreme interest to co-operators, whose movement, born in the "hungry forties," has had to contend with poverty since it began. The problems of the Poor-Law are not pleasant problems, but as the co-operative movement is itself an attempt to solve the problem of poverty, co-operators must face up to the position. Unemployment has thrown many thousands of good workers on the pinnacles of the Poor-Law for support, with the result that the maintenance for the unemployed alms has increased Sheffield rates enormously.

Bad as the situation is, however, it would have been infinitely worse had it not been for the beneficent work of co-operation. The co-operative movement encourages thrift. More than that, it makes thrift easy. Its dividend and share system permit a family to save while it spends, so that the family budget for food, clothing, and necessities bring a miniature windfall every half-year at dividend time. Many a wage-earner, many a housewife, and many a family has built up without hardship a useful sum in the co-operative society—and that sum has kept them from the necessity of having recourse to the Poor-Law when bad times have come.

The full value of co-operation in saving public expenditure in this city has not been fully realized. During the period of depression, the two Sheffield

societies have paid out to their members in dividends on purchases, withdrawn share capital and interest, over £2,500,000. Without doubt, this has made an enormous saving in public expenditure in Poor-Law relief. Co-operators having thus contributed to a serious conservation of public expenditure should see to it that, with their experience of practical administration and business control, they are fully represented on their own people on the Sheffield Board.

As a political organization, we believe that the proposals of the Minority Report of the Poor-Law Commission, whereby all administration of this kind would be placed in the hands of the City Council, would secure economy and efficiency in administration. Meantime, however, we are called upon to deal with the situation as we find it, and it is important, if we are to avoid as much human suffering as possible, that men and women who have been brought up under hard, difficult circumstances, who have—in Mr. Baldwin's words—"through the mill," should be selected to carry out this work. It is because we believe that experience is the best teacher that we advocate the Co-operative and Labour candidates on this occasion. We are putting forward men and women who have not only been compelled to practise economy in their own homes, not only felt the pinch of poverty in their own lives, but who have taken part in the management of democratic institutions of various kinds. Those who have been active in trade union circles know what it means to suffer from unemployment on the one hand, and to fight for compensation, the right to a proper standard of living, and, in short, the rights of humanity against those of profits and power on the other. Those people who have had a share in the management of the great co-operative movement know how best to deal with the hard-earned money paid in rates. Furthermore, they come from, and represent, the class who pays the bulk of the rates in this city.

We trust therefore, that the talk of "extravagance," the charge of "piling up debt," the advocacy of "economy" by our opponents, will not blind the electors to three important facts, viz.—

1. The workers pay the bulk of the rates; it is therefore to their interest to see that they are wisely administered.
2. The workers represent 90 per cent. of the electors in the city, and they should have at least that quota of representation in the management of the city's affairs.
3. The workers' representatives during the past few years have shown equal—if not greater—capacity than those whose chief claim to notoriety is not ability, but mere ownership. We take the opportunity, therefore, of advising our readers to interest themselves at once in the Guardians' election; to ascertain the names of those who have been democratically selected from the workers' organizations; and to see that they are elected on Monday, April 2nd.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Limited.

## COAL DEPARTMENT

Spring 1928.

NO Foreign Potentate was ever more welcomed than this new season of hope. The "Worst Winter for Years" is past, its one bright spot—the

COAL IN BAGS  
PER 1 1/6 CWT.  
Extra Out-Boundary.  
SATISFACTION  
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PER 29 = TON  
Delivered Free.

**S. & E. Quality HOUSE COAL**

which, throughout the mixed wintry weather, maintained a stability of quality, and enhanced its already high reputation.

COAL 17,500 Tons already supplied by this fine instalment system of payment. Ask for particulars.

**Open to Members**

### Proved by Merit

To be Worthy of the Name.

## "THE IDEAL"

- Ladies' Tailor-made Costumes.
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- Can be obtained at your Store.

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BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. STANFORTH RD. AND FER VALE.

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### VALUE-FOR-MONEY FURNITURE

Have you called to inspect our Showrooms of recent date? If not, you have missed a treat, we have

BEDROOM SUITES - from £10 10s. CHAIR SUITES - from £12 12s.  
SIDEBOARDS - from £6

BEDSTEADS and BEDDING in plenty to suit your taste.

LATEST GOODS INCLUDE LARGE PURCHASES MADE AT THE LONDON EXHIBITION. SPECIAL DESIGNS. SPECIAL PRICES.



We have also the finest range in the city of

CARPETS, RUGS, FLOORCLOTHS, LINOS, MATTINGS, &c., by all the leading manufacturers.

Household Goods at competitive prices. See our RECLINING CHAIR at 19/11.

DIVIDEND 1/8 ON ALL PURCHASES.





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MADE UNDER TRADE UNION CONDITIONS. STAMP No. 12.



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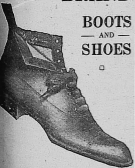
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JOIN AT ONCE AND SHARE IN THE BENEFITS.

Newest SPRING GOODS

WITH the coming of the bright Spring days every woman's thoughts naturally turn to the replenishing of her wardrobe—you will be sure to find what will please you in our Spring-time display.

Dressmaking Department, Page Hall, Road.



A Choice Selection of MATERIALS for SUMMER COSTUMES & COATS

An early visit is advised as all woolsen goods have recently advanced.

At Page Hall Road and Kirkbridge Road we have a charming collection of

LADIES' COATS,

NEWEST MATERIALS & COLOURINGS, from 29/6

ALSO IN BEAUTIFUL TWEEDS from 22/6

A WIDE SELECTION IN LADIES' AND OUT-SIZE DRESSES from 12/11.

CHILDREN'S OUTFITTING

can be purchased at any of the following shops:—Shirland Lane, Page Hall Road, Handsworth Hill, Gower Street, Kirkbridge Road, and Hillsborough.



LIGHTWEIGHT MACS, 12/11 & 19/11.

In our Millinery Departments at Shirland Lane, Page Hall Road, Handsworth Hill, and Gower Street, are charming displays of dainty SPRING HATS in all the Latest Styles.

As Spring Cleaning is now approaching, don't fail to see our stock of CURTAINS, BEDDING, BAIZES, &c.

NEWEST STYLES in KNITWEAR

Three-piece Knitted Suits, Jumpers, and Cardigans may be seen at all our 13 branches.

Umbrellas, Chubby Crooks, in all colours, at 5/11.

An Infinite Variety of GLOVES and SCARVES at moderate prices.

ART SILK LINGERIE

at very popular prices, also a wide selection of Woven Cambr., Vests, Hosiery, &c. at every branch.



FULL DIVIDEND ON ALL PURCHASES — 1/8 IN THE £ Last Half-Year.

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Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Limited.  
**FURNISHING AND CROCKERY DEPARTMENTS.**  
 The Arcade. :: Cemetery Road.

## SPRING CLEANING

DO YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE

One of the largest and varied stocks of Brushes, Mops, Buckets, Enamel Ware, and Crockery in this City.

Call and see the goods when at The Arcade.

Full-size Dust Mops, from 1s. 9d.

All Grocery Branches can supply the above articles.

Wringer Repairs of every description executed on the shortest notice. Prices moderate.

Carpet Beating, Cleaning, Repairs, and Remaking by Experts. City prices charged.

All kinds of Bedding cleaned and renovated.

Re-upholstering executed by skilled workman. May we quote you? Estimates free.

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Pianos tuned and repaired. Give your order at the Grocery Branch nearest to you. Every branch is an order office.

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Before placing your order, consult us. Advice free.

Watches, Clocks, Gramophones, cleaned and repaired.

All Work Guaranteed. Full Dividend Allowed.

## THE MODERN ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON.



THE Modern Dragon is the great combine, which by its oppressive operations *forces up prices* to the detriment of the people.

IN their own defence the people have raised up a champion, whose actions are those of a veritable St. George. It is the great counter combine for *reducing prices*—the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited.

Support Your Own Great Institution—  
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CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD.

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Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Limited.

## Boot Department.

WONDERFUL VALUES  
 IN FOOTWEAR OF  
 QUALITY.

Navy Blue Glace Kid 1-Bar Shoe, smartly cut and made on a stylish Last. Covered Low Box Heel. Good Quality and Fitting. **16/11**



Navy Blue Glace Kid Shoe, with the Latest Design of Trimming cut from Leonard Gull Skin, Louis Heel covered Lizard. The very latest in style, and well balanced in appearance. A real High Grade Shoe at a moderate price. **21/-**

Patent Shoe, with Spudal Bar Design. Trimmed with Black Glace Kid. Made on Short Continental Last, with Louis Heel, Celluloid covered. Stylish to a degree. **18/11**

"Florence Mills" shade in Best Quality Glace Kid. Trimmed with Hogo to tone. Louis Heel. Smart Last and beautifully cut and made in every detail. **22/6**



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STANFORTH ROAD.

BRANCHES: TAPLIN ROAD, HILLSBOROUGH, PAGE HALL ROAD, FIRVALE, ATTERCLIFFE ROAD.

Before deciding on your Spring Wear see what your Society has to offer you.

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Gents' Ready-to-Wear Suits, Single-breasted .....	35s.	6d.
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Youths' Ready-to-Wear Suits, Single or Double-breasted .....	from 34s.	6d.
Boys' Ready-to-Wear Suits .....	from 18s.	6d.
Gents' Flannel Suits, Grey .....	7s.	11d. and 10s.
Gents' Tweed Trousers.....	8s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 12s.	6d.
The "Wonder" Mac. ....	17s.	6d.

### OUTFITTING DEPARTMENT.

Gents' Union Shirts, Special Value .....	3s.	11d.
Gents' Tunic Shirts, Latest Designs .....	from 5s.	11d.
Gents' Heather Hose and Half-hose, Special Lines .....	1s.	6d.
Gents' Fancy Half-hose, Newest Shades .....	1s.	11d.
Gents' Caps in Great Variety .....	from 7s.	6d.
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Suit to Measure, Special Lines at 42s. 0d., 50s. 0d., and 70s. 0d.	
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