



THE MEMBER FOR HULLSBOROUGH

SUMMARY OF MR. A. V. ALEXANDER'S PARLIAMENTARY WORK IN THE PAST SESSION.

Division Record.

From February 7th, 1928, to August 3rd, 1928, Mr. Alexander took part in 308 divisions out of a possible 365. He was the thirty-eighth on the list of 615 members, and sixteenth on the list of 150 Labour members.

Mr. Alexander has, during a more than usually strenuous session, been very active in the interests of his constituency, and has on innumerable occasions strongly advocated the interests of the workers and of the co-operative movement, and consumers generally.

Companies Bill.

Mr. Alexander has been in charge of this Bill for the Labour Party, and during the five weeks the Bill has been under discussion both in the House and in the Committee has done an enormous amount of valuable work which has received very little publicity in the Press. The attitude of the opposition has been one of constructive criticism and Mr. Alexander has been mainly concerned with endeavouring to secure full publicity in the accounts of limited companies. He has pressed for the same publicity in the accounts of companies as is insisted upon in the accounts of co-operative societies. In the course of his speeches, he has thrown a flood of light on the amazing manipulations connected with the stocks and shares of companies, and in pressing for accounts showing the true position and the real profits of companies, demonstrated how such accounts would enable the consumer to see whether he was paying too high a price of commodities, and also allow the worker to know whether he was getting a square deal from the employers. Time after time, such an unanswerable case was presented that not a single reply came from the Tory benches. Some minor improvements in the Bill were secured, but on the cardinal question of publicity the Government supported that the friends, the company directors, and the same had conditions will be allowed to continue.

Co-operators, however, have secured one great benefit as a result of Mr. Alexander's work on this Bill. He secured an amendment which provides that in future no new company may be registered with the word "Co-operative" in its title, without the consent of the Board of Trade. The movement has suffered in the past by reason of unsound and in some cases fraudulent limited companies adopting a co-operative name and leading co-operators to invest in them while mistakenly believing that they were connected with the official co-operative movement. In future this will be prevented.

Duty on Mechanical Lighters.

During the discussions on the Budget proposals, Mr. Alexander secured an amendment to provide that the duty on mechanical lighters should not extend to mechanical lighters attached to miners' safety lamps. Particularly in Scotland, the miners use an acetylene lamp with a mechanical lighter attached, and the duty would have meant an increase in the cost of his lamp to the miner of nearly 20 per cent. The lot of the miner is already difficult enough, and Mr. Alexander's amendment prevented a further hardship being imposed.

Mr. Alexander pointed out that the Committee of Inquiry after previously refusing to recommend a duty in 1926, had executed a complete " volte face," and with practically no new evidence of any vital consequence now recommended a duty of 35 per cent. He showed quite clearly that if the English manufacturers specialised in certain lines in the way that foreign manufacturers had done, there would be no need for a duty. Where they had done so, their goods were well known and commanded a ready sale, being quite independent of foreign competition. Foreign imports were mainly the cheaper classes of pens and utensils used by the poorer people in the country, and the only effect of the duty would be increased prices to that section of the community least able to afford them.

Rating and Valuation Bill.

Mr. Alexander made a strong protest against the Minister of Health proceeding with the Committee Stage of the Rating and Valuation Bill without first having issued a statement to local authorities of their helping necessities in areas such as Sheffield. He pointed out that the proposed rating relief was to be given to all productive industries, irrespective of whether they were in a prosperous position or not, and suggested that a much greater benefit would accrue to the country as a whole if the relief was confined to productive industries in particular necessitous areas. Mr. Alexander also criticised the system of fixed grants to local authorities for a period of five years, which could only mean that any increase in the expenditure of local authorities during that period, such as increased expenditure on education or public health services, would have to be met by the people who were still paying rates, i.e., retailers and householders. As the co-operative society would probably be the largest retailer in many areas, the consumer would be subjected both as a householder and also in the extra cost of commodities also in the increased rates to the co-operative society and other retailers.

Board of Trade Vote.

As late Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, Mr. Alexander was prominent in the debate on the Board of Trade vote. He drew attention to the increase of combinations and amalgamations in industry, and pointed out the dangers of exploitation by abuse of the powers of such combinations; and the Government were urged to adopt legislation for the control of trusts and combinations such as at present existed in most of the Dominions and many countries in Europe.

National Health Insurance Medical Benefit Regulations.

After consultation with the Retail Pharmacists' Association, the Minister of Health issued regulations which contained a clause completely prohibiting co-operative societies from paying any dividends on National Health Insurance prescriptions. Mr. Alexander immediately put down a prayer to His Majesty to have these regulations annulled; and in the course of his speech attacked the Government for making such an order without any consultation

whatever with the co-operative movement, especially in view of the fact that the question had been discussed with his Department on many occasions, and the opinion given by officials of the Ministry of Health that there was nothing illegal in the practice of giving dividends on Health Insurance prescriptions and nothing improper in so doing. He said that the fact of the Minister of Health drawing up such a regulation constituted a definite recognition by the Conservative Government of the principles and practice of the Proprietary Articles Traders' Association, which was directly opposed to the principles of the co-operative movement. The Proprietary Articles Traders' Association had been the subject of investigation under the legislation of both Canada and New Zealand, and in Canada had been declared an illegal organisation operating to the detriment and against the interests of the public. In New Zealand a committee of inquiry found that the association was a combination detrimental to efficiency in distribution . . . dangerous to the public, and a hindrance to the co-operative movement; and recommended that the New Zealand Government should make regulations under their Board of Trade Act to prevent the P.A.T.A. from operating in New Zealand.

Mr. Alexander also drew attention to a memorandum prepared for the Committee on Trusts in this country in 1925 by Mr. John Hilton, in which he stated that the actions of the P.A.T.A. struck at the root of the principle on which co-operative societies operated.

This matter was also considered at the Co-operative Congress at West Hartlepool, and a resolution passed urging the withdrawal of the regulations and requesting the Minister of Health to receive a deputation on this matter.

Agricultural Credits Bill.

Mr. Alexander, on the second reading of the Agricultural Credits Bill, led the opposition. Whether the Labour Party or the Co-operative Party are opposed to any sound scheme of agricultural credits, and for years the co-operative movement has argued in favour of the introduction of a complete and efficient co-operative credit societies for the agricultural community. The Government proposals, however, were absolutely unsound; and, in fact, the Minister of Agriculture was compelled to admit that the Bill would do nothing to help those agriculturists most urgently in need of assistance. The Bill merely had the effect of placing the farmer almost entirely in the hands of the banks, so much so that Mr. Alexander said, "The Bankers' Protection Bill."

In order to persuade the banks to take up the question of agricultural credit to all the Government were compelled to provide in the Bill for direct and contingent liabilities in the way of assistance amounting to nearly £4,000,000. When after all this public expenditure had been expended the Minister of Agriculture was compelled to admit that farmers would still be required to pay round about 2½ per cent. interest for loans to enable them to purchase their farms, the justice of Mr. Alexander's criticism will be seen.



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

The Food Council.

As in previous sessions, Mr. Alexander has repeatedly pressed upon the Government the necessity of making the Food Council really effective in preventing exploitation of the consumer by giving their statutory powers to compel the production of information by traders. His long series of complaints were fully justified, when the Food Council reported to the President of the Board of Trade, that after negotiations extending over two years they had been unable to obtain the information they required from certain sections of the meat trade, and from flour millers, madder boilers, and soap distillers' associations. As a result of this, the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons that unless the information required was forthcoming within a reasonable time, statutory powers would be given to the Food Council.

Mr. Alexander has always maintained right from the time the Food Council was set up, that without these powers the Council would be useless so far as the protection of the consumer was concerned and these events provide a complete justification for this attitude.

Duty on Enamelled Hollow-ware.

In opposing the imposition of a safeguarding duty on enamelled hollow-ware,

DIRECT LABOUR SUCCESS. AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

REPORT UPON THE SHEFFIELD CORPORATION PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT.

BY ALDERMAN T. H. WATKINS

The Sheffield Corporation decided in 1927 to establish a direct labour department a plant for carrying out the whole of the printing and bookbinding required by the departments of the corporation.

The work of the department was to cover not only ordinary printing of forms and the like, but the printing of minutes, the printing of annual reports, including the City Treasurer's Statement of Accounts, the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, and, indeed, all printing required by the corporation, with the exception of tramway department tickets, the contract for which is reviewed by this department.

The same observations apply to book-binding. Not only the ruled forms such as are in general use in public departments, but the ruling, making, and binding of ledgers, including loose-leaf ledgers and the whole of the book-binding of all the public libraries in the City are carried out in this department.

In addition to this, the department acts as a merchandising department for the economical supply of office requisites under a central scheme of purchase and delivery.

The premises opened for work on December 5th, 1927.

Premises and plant were purchased at a cost of £50,000. (Cost of premises and alteration, £8,022 18. 11d.; plant, £12,045 12s. 8d.).

The number of workpeople engaged on the opening day was seven. This rapidly grew from week to week until, on August 15th, the pay roll included seventy-one workpeople.

The committee of management gave careful consideration to the general question of necessity. The committee were anxious that every penny of expenditure properly attributable to the working of the department should be debited to it. Accordingly the first balance sheet was issued, and which referred to the period of working from December 5th to March 31st, was prepared after an exhaustive scrutiny of all the accounts by the City Treasurer, and not by the Controller of the printing department, and this only after audit both of the accounts and of the stocktaking by the City Auditor and his staff.

Further, the committee gave careful consideration to the charges to be made for the products of the department. It was decided that for the first year all work should be charged for at the prices which were actually paid to outside firms by the corporation for the same work in the year immediately preceding that in which the printing and stationery department was open, with this exception: A good deal of the work of municipal departments is "repeat work," after the first setting of a lower price, which we call a "repeat price," can be accepted for the work.

It was decided that the first setting of each printing job should be charged up according to the scheme of the Master Printers' Federation, and the

second and subsequent jobs should be charged up according to the "repeat price" offered in 1926.

The balance sheet prepared and issued by the City Treasurer shows for the four months ending March 31st a gross profit of £1,785, and a net profit, after paying bank interest and the allowances for depreciation, of £1,607.

The opinion was freely expressed by opponents of this direct labour scheme that the whole venture would be a disastrous financial failure, and that exorbitant prices would have to be charged in order to make a fictitious profit. In fact, the opinion was expressed by business men desirous of taking a fair view of the policy of the corporation, that the undertaking could do well if it began "to pay" at the end of a year's working. The results show that at the end of the four months the undertaking was in a highly productive and profitable condition.

It is now possible to give a further statement, which although subject to the usual audit, is, nevertheless, a careful statement of the progress of the department from March 1st, 1928, to August 15th, 1928. In respect of this further period of four-and-a-half months, the undertaking shows a further clear profit of £2,700, which makes, for the first 31 months of its working of the undertaking a net profit of over £1,800, after paying all interest and redemption charges for the period and all charges coming against the department.

The staff are paid trade union rates, with a substantial proportion of the staff at higher rates than trade union rates. There is no charge for the honorary controller, who has undertaken to give his services without fee until he is in a position to hand over the undertaking to the corporation as a going concern, and this the honorary controller proposes to do on December 5th, i.e., after one year's working.

The quality of the supplies has not suffered by this change. On the contrary the work shows a marked improvement on the work which was formerly obtainable. Deliveries have been more prompt and overtime charges almost entirely eliminated.

It is felt that the building is not a model building. The working premises are crowded to the utmost capacity and amenities such as a dining-room for the midday meal are sorely needed; much more provision for washing would be a great advantage, and with premises specially designed for the purpose a much better "lay-out" could be effected.

Notwithstanding all these disadvantages the staff is a contented staff, doing its work well and with good results. The hon. controller estimates, conservatively, that if the whole of the clear profits for the first three years are devoted to the wiping out of the capital debt, and the building and the plant could be redeemed in three years from the first opening of the department.

Controller Harold Jackson Wants to Pay Salaries to Superfluous Superintendents, But His Own Party Desert Him.
The City Council had its usual meeting on Wednesday, September 6th, and opened with an appreciation of the work of the late Controller Civil and concordance with his relatives.

Controller Barton was elected on the Public Hall committee.

A Triumph For Labour: The End of a Bad System.

Councillor Charlesworth called attention to the conversion of Police Bay to the Health Commission, "that the Privy Conversions Sub Department be closed down from September 30th, 1928. It was an epoch in the history of Sheffield for it meant the complete ending of the old infamous privy middle system. The number of conversions had been 3,750, and there had been 5,377 new additions. It had cost the Corporation £507,347, which was a third of the total cost.

It reminds me that the resolution for the provision of a substantial amount for the conversion of Privy Aldens was the first resolution moved by Councillor Murray and myself when I entered the Council in 1907.

Bouquets for the Libraries Committee.

Councillor Barton, in the name of the citizens of Sheffield, thanked Mr. Walter Hall for his valuable gift of old deeds and charters, some of them going back to the thirteenth century, and in a very good state of preservation. Readers should take the opportunity of calling at the Central Library and inspecting them in the reference room in the reference hall. Councillor Minshall and Alderman Wardley spoke in high appreciation of the splendid exhibition of library books at the Sheffield Industries Exhibition at the Cutler's Hall. Also with the publicity publications of the committee.

Sheffield Electricity: The Cheapest in the United Kingdom.

Labour has achieved another triumph since we have been brought down to pre-war level. I should say we are the first undertaking in the world to achieve such a distinction, and what is more, it brings our charges below any in the whole of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and, possibly, though I could not state with certainty, in the whole world. The reason I was in Antwerp, where the price was higher than it was here before the reduction.

Alderman Graves made a very good speech in criticism of the difference in charges made by the committee. They are certainly not as fair as they ought to be, but there are two considerations he overlooked. The first is the charges were instituted by our opponents, who could easily have charged higher prices for power at a time trade was booming, but this could hardly be done at the present time of depressed trade. The second is that our committee have already reduced charges and are going carefully into the whole matter of differential prices.

Painting by Direct Labour.

Councillor Irwin Mitchell wanted to know why no tenders had been obtained for painting houses and said the committee did not mind how much money they spent.

Councillor Cascoigne said lots of big firms get a staff of painters to do

necessary work, and Councillors Garnett and Robinson gave a scathing criticism of the rotten work done by private contractors. The work done by the department was much superior.

Councillor Harold Jackson's Farce.

It was really too absurd for words. The facts were these. The Council were faced with a demand from the Home Office for a greatly increased force of police. They appointed seventy-five new officers, but in order to utilize those they had got to better advantage and so save the city very considerable expense, they decided to increase the Police Box system. But for this purpose they only require four superintendents in place of six. There were several superintendents who had reached the full limit of their superannuation, and the committee kindly called them together and suggested they should decide which two should go. They apparently took the suggestion in good part, but certainly did not come to any agreement. Consequently, the two senior superintendents were given their discharge on a pension of £153 6s. 8d. per annum, a fairly substantial sum, one would say. These gentlemen, however, go to see Mr. Jackson in his professional capacity (it would be a branch of the regulations to go in any other) and Mr. Jackson takes them to the Council. He says, "I am very fair to Mr. Jackson to say that he states he does not propose to charge anything. A poorer case was never put up by a lawyer and even some of his own party opposed him, and he was thrown out from voting. It reminded one of the

YOU

defeat of Harold at the Battle of Hastings, R.F.P.

The Abattoirs and Cold Storage.

The Markets Committee, like the other committees, are going ahead. They have now got sanction to borrow the money to build the new Retail Market at Castle Hill. The abattoirs are nearly completed, and the abomination of the Shambles will soon be gone for ever. When the abattoirs were first suggested it was arranged to have what all up-to-date premises require, a cold storage plant. The abattoir will necessarily be a coat to the city, but the cold storage would at least provide some profit to put beside the loss. So the private interests got busy and the Citizens dropped it out of their plan, and, of course, they had the support of a Tory Ministry of Health. Labour has tried to get the Ministry to give permission to borrow money, but without success, so they have decided to borrow (borrow, not take) from the tramway reserve.

Councillor Hunter shines when he is delivering Big Business against municipalisation and gave a good speech from his point of view, but from the standpoint of those who put the interests of the city first, there was nothing in it. Alderman Minshall was mischievous of his arguments and the motion was defeated.

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Friday, Dinner, 8-30 p.m.	6d.
Saturday, Walk Dinner, 8 p.m.	6d.

Every SUNDAY EVENING at 7 P.M. MEETING will be held.

PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER:

Oct. 7th.—Conv. W. G. ROBINSON.
14th.—MR. SEAR MACLOUGHLIN.
21st.—ALD. T. H. WATKINS.
28th.—MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATES.

Secretary, Mr. F. Tabbart, 106, Grosvenor Road, Darwell.
Society's Secretary, Mrs. A. Ives, 17, Shelley Road.
SPECIAL NOTE.—Councillor R. H. Minshall will be speaking at the Labour Hall every first Friday in the month, 8.30 p.m.
Socialist Sunday School held every Sunday at 2-30 p.m.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party have now issued their programme for session 1928-9. They are to be congratulated on having arranged meetings, socials, play-readings, &c. for every Monday night, from September 17th, 1928, to the beginning of May, 1929. Generally speaking, the first Monday in the month will be used for play-readings; the second for an address on some subject of public interest; third, social; and fourth, report on City Council's work.

We note that Mrs. Eva M. Christie (national women's organiser of the Co-operative Party) is amongst the speakers. Mrs. Christie will also address a rally of Sheffield co-operative women in the halls under the auspices of the party in the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute, on the afternoon of November 13th, at 3 o'clock. The meeting will be followed by a public tea. Further announcements will be made later.

The Hillsborough Party opened their session on Monday, September 17th, with a social and dance in the Large Institute. Mr. R. E. Jones, who presided, congratulated the party on having brought the organisation up to concert pitch, and stated that whilst the party had such splendid voluntary workers we could look forward with confidence to both municipal and Parliamentary elections. There was a large attendance of supporters, all of whom pledged themselves to the service of the party during the forthcoming winter. Under the individual membership scheme a number of new members were enrolled.

On September 24th, Councillor Snelgrove gave an interesting resumé of the Labour Party's work on the City Council, stressing particularly the progress that had been made in extending the electricity supply service, and also in reducing the charge, until now the price was practically on a pre-war level. His review of educational progress in the city also proved of great interest. Mrs. Haywood and Mr. Edwards were

the soloists. This, by the way, is to be a feature of all the meetings. Communal singing and items by one or two artists each evening have been arranged for the whole session.

Hillsborough Institute.

The programme for the Sunday evening meetings is now on sale. Amongst the speakers are—October 7th, Mr. Wm. Graham, M.P.; October 28th, Lady Mabel Smith; December 16th, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P. The "Aber" Male Quartette, Shiregreen Male Voice Choir, Hillsborough Institute Choir, and a number of prominent Sheffield artists have been engaged for every Sunday during the session.

The Sunday Morning Fellowship meetings at Hillsborough will commence on October 7th, when Mr. Bingham will give an address on "The Purpose of the Fellowship." Amongst the subjects to be dealt with during the session are "Poetry and Peace," "Goethe's Music, simply Illustrated," "Facts About the Sea," "Architecture, simply Illustrated," "The British Commonwealth of Nations," "Mazzini and His Work," "Poetry, simply Illustrated," "Science simply Illustrated," and "Sheffield Castle." The programme, which is issued in the full programme of the Institute, gives details of books recommended to follow up a closer study of the various subjects with which the Fellowship will deal. The full programme, 1928-9, of all the political and educational activities of the Institute is now on sale, and may be had from any member, or at the Institute.

Women's Section.

The Women's Section of the Hillsborough Co-operative Party have made a good start for the present session, and are increasing their numbers week by week. Although the meetings are now held in the guild-room, the membership is increasing so rapidly that it is expected before the session is out the

large Institute will have to be used for these meetings. At the meeting held on September 24th, the room was almost full.

Arrangements for the session are: First Monday, social; second, speaker; third, newspaper cuttings and debates; fourth, Co-operative Party business notes. Musical items are arranged for every week. Meetings commence 2-30 p.m. All co-operative women are cordially invited.

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Divisional Co-operative Party held their meeting on Thursday, September 13th. Councillor W. G. Robinson (secretary) gave an interesting report on the City Council, particularly on the various direct labour schemes—Building, Painting, Printing, &c. Mrs. Barringer (the Co-operative member on the Rotherham Branch of Pool-Law work, including a very interesting account of the casual ward under the Rotherham Guardians.

NEEPSEND.

At a special meeting of the Neepsend executive, Councillor J. A. Longden was again nominated as the party candidate for the next November elections.

The Neepsend Ward Committee have maintained their organisation throughout the summer, holding monthly meetings at which the aldermen, councillors, and guardians have given reports of their work on these authorities. Interesting discussions have always followed these addresses. The party is continuing this system, and in this way their public representatives have been kept in close touch with the needs of the ward. The Citizens' Association will be hard put to find a candidate who will be able to put up anything like a show against Councillor Longden, whose popularity has increased enormously during his three years' work on the Council.

WALKLEY.

As reported in our September issue, the Labour Party, after having selected

Mr. Alex. Laing, J.P., as the candidate for the Walkley Ward, lost no time in arranging a meeting for confirmation of their selection. Officials of the Co-operative Party attended, and gave their hearty support to Mr. Laing, who will be remembered, is the president of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society.

At this special ward meeting, Mr. Laing gave a short address on the relationship of the Co-operative and Labour Parties. He stated that the "sister" movements, and he was happy to note the splendid feeling existing between the two organisations. He promised that the forthcoming election would be won without the use of personalities, so far as he was concerned. This did not mean that an enthusiastic fight would not be put up. Councillor Skelton who followed, pointed out that they had plenty of ammunition, and that the Labour record on the City Council would stand the closest scrutiny. Councillor Holland also gave an interesting speech in support.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman M. Humbertson, J.P.) will send a memorial photograph of the late Councillor A. Spencer at the Labour Hall, Shearwood, Walkley, on October 31st, at 4 p.m. A cordial invitation is given to Walkley electors who will remember the splendid work that Councillor Spencer carried on in spite of many months of painful illness. The photograph has been presented by the late councillor's widow, Mrs. Spencer.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL SECTION.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section of the Co-operative Party will hold their

RUNNING

first meeting of the present session in the Guild-room, Cemetery-road, on Thursday, October 12th, at 8 p.m. Business and friends are invited. Member: Arrangement of 1928-9 programme.

Mr. A. V. ALEXANDER'S NEXT VISIT.

Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., will address the electors at the Walkley Church Hall, South-road, on Friday, October 12th, at 8 p.m. Mr. Alex. Laing, J.P. (prospective candidate for Walkley), will also speak. Mr. Ibbotson (Chairman of the Hillsborough Labour Party) will preside. All electors cordially invited. Admission free.

Mr. Alexander will speak at a meeting of the Crabtree P.M. Church, on Sunday afternoon, October 14th, and in the evening will address the members of the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE CHAIR.

Mr. Verdon Sansam, I.R.A.M., has been compelled to resign as chairman for the Brightside and Carbbrook Co-operative Society's chair. For health reasons he has given many years' service and has been responsible for some very fine productions during this period. A social evening is to be held on Thursday, October 11th, at which a presentation will be made to Mr. Sansam in recognition of his service.

Mr. J. A. Elston (late conductor of the Doncaster Co-operative Society's choir) has been appointed as Mr. Sansam's successor.

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Sheffield Cooperator.

October, 1928.

**CO-OPERATIVE
 INFLUENCE UPON LABOUR
 POLICY.**

Those advocates of so-called political neutrality who denounced the action of the Co-operative Party in arranging an alliance with the Labour movement, should have seen by now that the advantage of such an arrangement is with the co-operative movement.

The new Labour Election Programme shows many signs of the influence of the co-operative movement upon Labour leaders and thinkers. The fact that the co-operative movement is proceeding along parallel lines with the Labour Party is demonstrated time and again by the attitude of the draftsmen of the new Programme. "The party will try," says the Programme, "to secure to every member of the community the standards of life and employment which are necessary to a healthy, independent, and self-respecting existence. To convert industry, step by step, and with due regard to the special needs and varying circumstances of different occupations from a sordid struggle for private gain into a co-operative undertaking, carried on for the service of the community and amenable to its control." To do this it proposes to use the national administrative service of local government, the co-operative movement, and vocational organisation amongst all classes. "The community," it says, "possesses the means to control its own economic future," and then it goes on to pay a just tribute to the co-operative movement, as follows:—

In the structure which it contemplates, therefore, voluntary initiative and public organisation will alike play their part. The magnificent system of non-profit-making enterprise erected by the co-operative movement, which already caters for some five million families, reveals at once the capacity of the workers for economic self-government and the superiority of the honourable motives of social service over the struggle for personal profit. The Labour Party regards co-operation as an indispensable element in the Socialist Commonwealth which is its own ideal, and looks forward to the time when it will include every member of the community. Naturally, therefore, it will work in the fullest alliance with co-operators, will take constant counsel with them in elaborating its policy of economic reconstruction, and will utilise their long experience and specialised knowledge to build a social order which may realise the lofty hopes that have inspired the prophets and pioneers of the co-operative movement.

And further—
 It will protect the consumer against excessive prices, by encouraging the development of co-operation, by establishing a stringent control over monopolies and combines, by enlarging the powers of the Food Council, and by utilising the experience secured during the war as to the advantages of the bulk importation of foodstuffs and raw materials by public authority. It will rescue business from the humiliating tradition of secrecy which surrounds it to-day, and will introduce the maximum possible publicity as to costs and profits.
 Not only is there this recognition in the Labour Programme, but the same influence has made itself felt at the Trade Union Congress, where the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., paid a striking tribute to our movement.

More and more Labour leaders are coming to see the tremendous advantages of the business experience of co-operators, and realising that if even the people are to attain communal control of industry, the co-operative movement must be recognised, not only as a successful experiment, but as a practical and immediate method of transforming private interest and exploitation into communal welfare.

**SHEFFIELD
 CO-OPERATIVE PARTY.**

NEW JUNIOR SECTION.

We are commencing our notes in connection with the new junior party with a feeling of optimism, as we believe that the programme arranged for our Wednesday night lectures and debates provides the finest educational media that has been organised on behalf of any political youth movement in Sheffield.

We extend the warmest welcome to all young people, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-one, to come along and join us in both our educational and social activities. We can assure all prospective members that they will be quite at home amongst us, a real spirit of comradeship prevails. They will get not only a first-rate educational programme on subjects of vital interest to all progressive citizens, but also the full privileges of our various social arrangements, which include dances, week-end schools, trips, etc., and, &c., all at a minimum of cost.

Further particulars can be obtained by filling in the form below.

September Notes.

We have had lectures by Mr. F. Langmead (Secretary, South Yorkshire District Co-operative Union) on "The Political Aspect of Co-operation"; and by our president (Mr. J. Johnson) on "Literature: Books worth reading as interesting nature, and a good deal of discussion followed.

We have been very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. J. H. Bingham to give us a series of twelve lectures



on "Citizenship." The first of this series was given on Wednesday, September 26th, when the lecturer dealt with "Representative Government—the Electorate, Parties, and Elections, &c."

October Programme.

- Oct. 3.—Co-operative League Report.
- " 10.—Lecture by Mr. J. H. Bingham, on "Units of Local Government—the Parish, the Union, and the District; Municipal, Borough, and County."
- " 17.—Mr. F. Skirrow (Leeds). Address, "Taxation of Land Values."
- " 24.—Mr. J. H. Bingham. Lecture, "The Borough: Parliamentary and Municipal."
- " 31.—No Meeting (municipal elections).

Social Activities.

Our first dance was held on Saturday, September 22nd, in the Banqueting Hall, Sheffield and Ecclesall Arcade, which proved a huge social success. Lea Tingle's orchestra provided the music, and the catering was excellently done by the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society. Mr. J. Johnson (president) addressed the gathering during the interval on the objects of the party.

Our next dance will be held on Saturday, October 13th, at the Burgmeave Vestry Hall. Tickets are, as ever, now available. Members are advised to get tickets early as the supply is strictly limited. Lea Tingle's orchestra will again provide the music.

To the Sheffield Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank-street.

I am desirous of becoming a member of the Sheffield Junior Co-operative Party, and enclose herewith 1s. subscription fee, for which kindly forward membership card and detailed programme.

Signed..... (full name)

Address.....

Date.....

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 Fortune Teller: "Your husband will be brave, generous, handsome, and rich."
 The Clerk: "I am advised to advise you tell me, how can I get rid of the one I have now?"

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WADSWLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL.

POVERTY'S MENTAL WRECKAGE.

WADSWLEY Mental Hospital is now one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country. Labour has been a great urge in securing the establishment of many innovations.

Isolation of tubercular patients was long overdue and is now an accomplished fact. A new isolation and receiving block will be established, and enteric and other infectious cases can be effectively supervised.

The recovery rate is the highest in the country, and Dr. Vincent and his medical staff are supported by male and female nurses of very high grade. They are encouraged to become proficient in their technical knowledge of the mental disease of the patients, as well as the attendants' duties. They are really nurses and not repressive custodians. We have improved since the days when these poor victims were thrashed.

After several rebuffs, Labour secured a consultant dental surgeon who deals with the obvious deterrent to recovery—bad teeth. They also secured the appointment of a consulting surgeon to deal with physical ailments. Under the old system, a patient might have tumour, but until it was certified that death would ensue if not dealt with, a surgeon could not be engaged.

Now, a "case" can be examined at any time it is suspected and dealt with. Thus, of course, helps to the mental recovery.

It is not fully realised that this is a mental hospital and the doctors are not surgeons.

The housing, feeding, and attendance of this great unfortunate army is an immense problem. To get the patients to do some work is the greatest distraction from their troubles and gives hope of recovery. Considerably more than half can do some useful work—laundry, cleaning, and sewing for women, and gardening and farming for men.

The garden and farm make big contributions to the "bill of fare" of the institution, and the following figures for this year may be interesting. These amounts, of course, are only a portion of that class of food required.

This is some of the produce from the farm:

39,000 gallons of milk, at 1s. 6d. per gallon.
3,156 stones beef, at 11s. 8d. per stone.
121 stones mutton, at 16s. 4d. per stone.
2,377 stones pork, at 11s. 8d. per stone.
1,471 cwt. potatoes.
714 dozen cabbages.
24 cwt. turnips.
Other vegetables to the value of £524, 14,400 eggs.

The number of patients at Wadswley is about 1,850, and the annual cost is £11,750.

There are four asylums under the West Riding Hospital Board, and the average cost per patient is 23s. 11d. per week.

The electrification of the building is now agreed upon, and this safe and clean illumination will be of immense service and add to the comfort of the patients.

UNEMPLOYMENT PALLIATIVES.

BY E. TOPHAM.

ALARMING increases in the number of unemployed have aroused the Government to spectacular action which has enjoyed more publicity than the usual warrants. Those who look to newspapers rather than headlines and newspapers photographs will be struck by the similarity between the case of the individual and the trivial remedies of the police. A thousand picked miners set out to surround the miners sent out to work, maybe, a precarious job as a harvest workers only serve to emphasize the dire plight of the remaining unemployed or more men for whom no such picturesque work is forthcoming. It was a time when Britain imported seasonal harvesters from Ireland and we have progressed since then.

A Begging Letter.

Nobody doubts the sincerity of Mr. Baldwin's letter appealing to employers to make special effort to find work for the unemployed, but one may express surprise that so shrewd an industrialist as the present Premier should address such ingenuous economic ideas. Employers have pointed out the obvious fact that they cannot make work. Does Mr. Baldwin, then, ask them to "diddle" work, to ration it, or does he want employers to create artificers?

Ironic consequences of the coal "shortage" have not been long in making by lengthening miners' hours the Government have thrown tens of thou-

R.O.P.?

sands more miners out of work, a result prophesied by the miners' leaders. Having implemented unemployment it, Baldwin now wants to get rid of it by a gesture.

Spending Power Makes Work.

Co-operative societies at any rate can receive Mr. Baldwin's letter with some complacency. The commercial basis of consumers' co-operation places the whole value of purchase money in the hands of the consumer either as profit or surplus. Co-operative surpluses in very large measure are immediately expended, and thereby demand is created, and more employment made. Co-operative dividends for the most part come to people who have the need and incentive to spend them on necessities and comforts.

Outside the co-operative system, however, commercial surpluses are not generally used for direct purchases of essential goods. Large shareholders prefer to disburse profits for luxuries that are least stimulating to employment, and often these are acquired abroad. Much money, too, is reaped at home and abroad in stocks and bonds, which add little to the call on the British labour market, and may, in fact, tend to clog the commodity and labour markets with goods for which the consumer has no means of effective demand.

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MONTHLY - - ONE PENNY

A Clean and Popular Magazine for
Young Folk. Full of
Stories, Pictures, and Competitions.

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Society Limited, 21, Lane, Millers, Manchester.

LABOUR v. BUSINESS MEN.

Sheffield Corporation shows a surplus for 1927 of £6,273, and for 1928 £7,360.

The Tory citizens had a series of losses for thirteen years and accumulated a deficiency of £50,000.

But, of course, they are "business people."

The corporation printing department shows gross profit of £1,795 in the first four months and over £3,500 in nine months, and over £5,000 is assured as profit on the first year's work.

This is the "failure" that the Tory citizens prophesied for Labour's venture.

The failure consists of the private printers failing to take this money that now goes to the ratepayers. The Tory

Citizens' Party opposed the scheme bitterly, but, of course, they are "business people."

The electric supply department has a credit balance of £23,354 on March 31st, 1928, the first full year of Labour administration. This is in addition to reductions of charges.

The year previous was a loss of £49,469—this was under Tory citizen control but, of course, they are "business people."

Points Agreed Upon—

First Attorney: "Your honour, unfortunately, I am opposed by an unmitigated socialist."

Second Attorney: "My learned friend is such a notorious liar—"

Judge (sharply): "The counsel will kindly confine their remarks to such matters as are in dispute."



The C.W.S. serves as the Great Wholesale Provider for the Co-operative Societies which spread all over the country. It eliminates the middleman's profits.

Because of the consistent high quality of its goods it has grown to its present enormous capacity.

In 1864 the C.W.S. commenced with annual sales of £50,000. In 1927 its sales were £86,894,379.

If you would like to hear more about this flourishing institution, write to the Co-operative Press Agency, 1, Ballion Street, Manchester, for a copy of "Sixty-Two Years of the C.W.S." Please mention this journal when writing.

CO-OPERATIVE
WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD.

LABOUR PARTY POLICE EXPERIMENT.

NEW POLICE BOX SYSTEM A SUCCESS.

SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN COST OF ORIGINAL DEMAND OF HOME OFFICE.

The new system in the SOUTHERN DIVISION, under which comes the Heeley and Woodsteads districts, has been in successful operation for some time, and it has been generally admitted as a striking success and has proved to be what the Labour Party intend it should be—an all-round public service.

The Highfields and Millhouses stations have been disposed of and the Southern Division is controlled entirely from its headquarters in the reconstructed and up-to-date Woodsteads station.

CENTRAL DIVISION, to which there are attached forty-eight police boxes, is also completed.

WESTERN DIVISION will embrace the present Walkley and Broomhall Divisions and the headquarters will be at Hammeton-road. There will be thirty-five police boxes and the Burgoyne-street Police Station will be disposed of.

EASTERN DIVISION will cover the present Attercliffe and Brightside Divisions, and will have its headquarters at Whitworth-road Police Station. There will be thirty-five police boxes connected therewith.

The net result will be to reduce the six police divisions to four, and two superintendents now receiving £30 per annum will be 'dispensed with. Councilor Jackson's amendment to retain these two redundant police officers at

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

a cost of £1,000 per year was overwhelmingly defeated at last Council meeting.

The police boxes are available for use by the public for all emergencies caused by danger, fire, or accident. The policeman can get into touch with headquarters promptly and the old-established beat has gone by the board. The evil door will not, in future, have the assurance that the course is clear for him, because the policeman's presence will be unknown.

An ambulance system is available in connection with the scheme, and first-aid cabinets are available at every box.

Arrested men and women will not be dragged through the streets, but taken to the nearest box and a conveyance phoned for, and it has cut down greatly the demands of the Home Office for an immense increase in the personnel of our police force, and it is confidently believed that Labour's alternative proposal will demonstrate that it can give an adequate public service and protection at an immense saving.

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Bers, smart Styles, all leather 8/11
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Gents' Footwear in great variety.
Tan Boots and Shoes, latest
models... .. 18/11

"USKIDE" Footwear 16/11

Black Boots & Shoes, Balmorals
and Derbys... .. 21/-

Youths' Footwear, 7/11, 8/11, 9/11

Special Purchase of Children's Crepe
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Better than Mother makes.

Our **CURRANT BREAD**
Is the **GOODS!**

Our **VI-MALT LOAF**,
The Perfect **LOAF!**

All our BREAD and CONFECTIONERY are PURE, made with the finest of INGREDIENTS, to be obtained at all our Branches and Vans. Please send post-card and our Deliverer will call.
Support your own Movement by giving us all your Trade.
DIVIDEND on all PURCHASES.
MONEY is scarce; now is the time to take advantage of CO-OPERATION.

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**We Guarantee Good Work
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Dear Sirs,—Please find cheque enclosed to cover your account. I would like to pay a tribute to your men. The work is done well, and is entirely satisfactory, the men being most obliging to have about the house.—Yours faithfully,

We do not want your catch jobs, but if you give us an opportunity we will make you our regular customers. A trial solicited.

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