



SPLENDID RECORD OF CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR RULE

THE Labour Party in November, 1926, was entrusted by the Electors of the City, and during the two years which have passed, the Labour Group upon the Council have made a concerted attack upon the forces of reaction and vested interests as represented by the Tory-Citizen Party, who, although in a minority locally, have their powerful allies at Westminster, and whose aid they have invoked upon every conceivable occasion to hinder the efforts of the Labour Group to administer the affairs of the City in accordance with human principles.

WHAT IS OUR HEALTH RECORD?

WE HAVE reduced the death-rate of the City from Tuberculosis to a point below that of any other town in the country, abolished the waiting list for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and have made all Tuberculosis services free. WE HAVE abolished 3,240 Adulterants in two years as against 824 abolished by the Tory-Citizens Party during the whole of their period of government. Completed the conversion of privy middens in those areas where sewers are available, and we are compelling the provision of one W.C. for each house.

WE HAVE considerably extended and developed our Maternity and Child Welfare work and provided a Maternity Hospital, and our present attendances at these Institutions show an increase of 12,000 per annum as compared with attendances under Tory-Citizen control.

WE HAVE brought your Health Services up to a standard which commands the confidence of the great mass of the citizens; made proper provision for the welfare of the Blind and freed them from the pauper taint. Approved of plans for the erection of Public Baths and Wash-houses, and are being additional Wards at Lodge Moor Hospital in order to provide a service that will meet present and future requirements.

WHAT IS OUR HOUSING RECORD?

WE HAVE speeded up the work of Slum Clearance, and for the first time in the history of the City 250 houses will be provided for this purpose this

year. Decided to build a new type of house which we intend to let at a lower rent, and through more efficient supervision of contracts and the operation of Direct Labour have reduced the building costs of houses.

DIRECT LABOUR.

WE HAVE set up our own Printing Department, and are now supplying the printing needs of the various Corporation Departments, and also Stationery, and have proved during the short time that it has been in existence that it does pay. The work is of an excellent kind, and is carried out expeditiously, and whilst keeping accounts which are open to the inspection of any qualified person, have made a profit of approximately £4,000 in the first nine months.

Built Tramscars at a saving of nearly £50 per car as against the price quoted by those who had previously built our cars.

Have built Schools and Houses, and are now building the new Markets by Direct Labour with considerable saving the Ratepayers, and in all our work we are observing not less than Trade Union rates of pay.

LOOK AT OUR EDUCATIONAL RECORD!

WE HAVE provided new schools for 2,450 children, and are providing for a further 6,000. An additional Secondary School. An Open-Air Recovery School at Bent's Green, and a Nursery School at Denby-street, whilst we are also making provision to extend the latter owing to its success. We have developed a policy which regards the child as the future citizen, and not merely as a cogwheel in a huge industrial machine, and we are making available for the first time a technical education for boys, and a business training for girls.

OUR TRADING DEPARTMENTS.

Trams and Buses.
We have extended our Tramway track by an additional five miles without imposing any increase in fares. Opened many new "Bus Routes, improved the design and construction of Tramscars and Motor Buses, and added enormously to the comfort of the passengers.

Markets and Abattoir.

WE are building a new and up-to-date Meat and Fish Market on the Castle Hill site as a contribution towards the general reorganisation of our Markets service. WE are building a New Abattoir which will be completed during the current year, and which will remove the blot from the fair name of our City caused by the existence of the present Slambale.

Electric Supply.

We have reduced the charges to Slot Meter Users from 8d. to 5d. per unit, and have reduced the charges to other users to pre-war level, and our scale of charges are now the lowest in the country. We have obtained sanction for further extension and development which will cost £200,000, and when completed, will enable us to further the activities, help our industries, and improve the health of the City.

NON-TRADING DEPARTMENTS.

Watch.
We have introduced the Police Box system into the City, and by this has secured increased efficiency with economy, at a cost considerably below that contained in the original demand of the Home Office.

Street Lighting.

We have provided 524 Courts with lamps, and are proceeding to light all courts, in addition to what we have improved the lighting of the City generally.

Libraries.

We have increased the issue of books through our Public Libraries by half-a-million volumes, and have adopted the system of open access in all Libraries. WE are building a new up-to-date Library at Firth Park, the first new Library to be built since 1912.

UNEMPLOYMENT SCHEMES.

WE HAVE prepared and placed before the Government, work schemes totalling £1,150,000 in value, but most of these have been definitely turned down by the Ministry, and all such work as has been done has been paid for out of the Rates.

Endeavoured to obtain grants from the Unemployment Grants Committee

for the building of new roads and other public works; but on the instructions of the present Tory Government these have all been stopped.

RATES.

WE HAVE acted upon the principle of "Weekly Wages and Weekly Payments," and reverted to compounding; the wisdom of this step is proven by the fact that in addition to collecting the whole of our financial requirements, we have collected £75,000 of the outstanding arrears. Brought sympathy and a wise understanding to bear towards those who are genuinely unable to pay and have reduced the number of summonses issued to 2,800 for the half-year as against an average of 20,000 per half-year under Tory-Citizen rule.

WE HAVE reorganised the Rating Department, and have brought the posing of Rate Payments up to a high standard of efficiency; this is now done within twenty-four hours as against SEVEN MONTHS arrears under Tory-Citizen rule.

FINANCE.

WE HAVE found to find a large additional sum from the Ratepayers to meet the cost of Outdoor Relief caused by the Tory Government reducing some, and cancelling other Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

We claim that our policy and administration have been marked by prudence and careful foresight, and by the conviction that the welfare of all the Citizens should be our anxious concern. WE shall continue, to press for the establishment of a Municipal Bank, and for the Rating of Land Values.

OUR FUTURE.

WE INTEND to pursue still further the vigorous Socialist Policy outlined in our Manifesto of 1925, and with the encouragement which we shall receive by a continued increase in our majority, and the establishment of a Labour Government at Whitehall after the next General Election which will bring with it help and assistance instead of hindrance and refusal, we will be able to proceed more rapidly to provide—
A HEALTHY CITY, THE CLEARANCE OF SLUM AREAS, AND THE FULLEST DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SERVICES.

WORKERS, BY HAND OR BRAIN, SHOULD VOTE AS FOLLOWS ON THURSDAY NEXT, NOVEMBER 1st.

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Attercliffe—ROBINSON, W. G. | Darnall—MINSHALL, R. H. | Park—GASCOIGNE, C. W. |
| Brightside—YORKE, W. E. | Hallam—BRUFTON, M. | St. Peter's—BRUCE, C. W. |
| Broomhall—BAKER, J. T. | Heeley—MILLER, C. H. | St. Philip's—WILLIAMS, J. F. |
| Burgreave—OATES, A. | Hillsborough—GILL, James. | Sharrow—WILLIAMS, P. |
| Crookesmoor—ROWLINSON, E. G. | Neepsend—LONGDEN, J. A. | Walkley—LAING, A. |

The Direct Labour Building Department for Sheffield was established in April, 1927. The whole scheme is under the control of the City Architect, who has seen to it that only really capable, practical men are employed in the work.

New Schools.

The Department has built the Phipps-road School, and it is a credit to all who have taken part in the work. It has accommodation for 1,470 children, and contains manual training rooms, medical inspection and waiting-rooms, laboratory, cookery, and industry rooms; in addition to a large assembly hall, which is connected to all the blocks by covered verandas. The school is of an entirely new design, and contains all the latest amenities possible for the cultural development of the workers' children. The design is not only one of beauty but of great practical advantage, arranged so as to give the maximum of light, warmth, and comfort to the scholars.

The Department is also building a school on similar lines in Abbey-lane, and another one on the Longley Estate. There is no attempt, nor indeed no temptation to scrimp the work or use inferior materials, as the aim is not profit but production for use.

New Market.

We are also building our new Market in Waingate by Direct Labour. The estimate given by our Department for this job is £38,268, whilst the lowest tender by private contract was £39,994, and the highest was £46,192.

Houses.

On the Ridgeway-road Estate our

THE DIRECT LABOUR BUILDING DEPARTMENT.

BY COUNCILLOR W. G. ROBINSON.

In view of the Sheffield Master Builders' challenge with regard to Direct Labour, the article we print below seems to be not only apt but an effective reply to the Master Builders, written as it is by an employee of the building trade.

Direct Labour Department has built eighteen parlour type houses, twenty-



Councillor W. G. ROBINSON.

four others are in hand; sixteen bungalows built, thirty-four in course of erection; and of the non-parlour type

twenty-two completed and forty-six in course of erection. On the Manor Estate also we have built twelve of the parlour type.

The effect of the establishment of this Department has been to influence contractors to raise the standard of quality in the houses they are building, and it is significant that in the prices quoted a substantial cut in the prices quoted for the erection of houses since this Department has been at work with its keen system of costings and its good quality of production. So much so that the cost of a house to-day is £73 less than the average cost of the Manor Estate houses, and the specifications include £70 more in actual value of materials used.

The following are the improvements in the specifications for house building since the Labour Party took control. The foundations within 2 ft. of the ground floor are to be 14 in. of brick-work built in cement sand, and the concrete is composed of broken stone, sand, and cement, instead of breeze aggregate and water which was used before.

There are tiled floors in the sculleries and ground floor bathrooms, in place of the concrete used hitherto. The type of fencing has been improved, better

quality drain pipes, much better finished joinery, better quality ironmongery, and improved paint and distemper work.

Hand-made mortar of pure lime and sand is used now instead of crushed mortar, which necessitated the joints being pointed after a very short period. On our latest schemes the external walls are pointed by cement and sand, which gives a much longer life and a better appearance.

The Repairs Depots.

We have established Repairs Depots to deal with our various Estates, a central depot at Wortley-road, an area depot on the Manor Estate, and one on the Stubbin Estate. By concentrating our purchases for this work and decentralising the depots, the effect is to save enormously on walking time as well as in the purchase of materials.

We have now 7,000 houses under Corporation control, and this necessitates constant repairs, particularly that were erected under the old contract system by the Citizens' Association.

The total estimated cost of work in hand by the Direct Labour Department in new buildings, &c., including alterations and painting, is £230,000. Up to the present the Department has fully justified itself, and we are hoping for a still greater success as time goes on for it is our deliberate intention to put out the middlemen in these things, and to carry out the people's work under the direct control of the people's representatives. The work already accomplished justifies us in asking for the vote of every progressive ratepayer on November 1st.

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for House Coal. S.E.C.

PROMINENT CO-OPERATORS IN THE MUNICIPAL FIGHT.

HILLSBOROUGH WARD—

Mr. JAMES GILL,

the Co-operative and Labour candidate for Hillsborough, an ex-schoolmaster of the Wadley Bridge Council School, and a fourteen-years' member of the Brightside and Carbrook Society's board of management, can claim to be not only well-known in the Hillsborough Ward where he has resided for the past twenty-three years, but an active worker on behalf of the people for many years. He served on the Guild of Help, and on



Mr. JAMES GILL.

the Sheffield Council of Social Service. He has always taken a keen interest in political affairs, and was at one time president of a certain Liberal association. When that Party, however, ceased to advocate a really Radical policy and formed a coalition to keep the progressives out of the City Council in Sheffield, Mr. Gill thought it was time to give up his work in that connection. He saw

that the real Radical policy of "Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform" was only being advocated in these latter years by the Labour Party. Moreover, he experienced as a director of the co-operative society the effect of the national Coalition Government during the war years and the period immediately following. He saw the necessity of co-operative industrial action, and he saw how closely the party policy was associated with the Labour Party, which convinced him that if he was to retain his progressive spirit his place was amongst the workers.

Hillsborough electors, particularly those of the Liberal faith, should be quite clear in their choice on November 1st. Liberals of Hillsborough should remember that their coalition representatives have sold the pass regarding the Taxation of Land Values, whilst the old Radical policy is on the Labour programme. In fact, Councillor Barlow has already obtained a report on the subject in the City Council and received the hearty approval of the Land Values League for his work in this connection.

Liberals will be asked to support a known Tory in the person of Mrs. Longden. If there is anything in Liberalism, if there is any difference between Liberalism and Conservatism; if there ever was anything worth advocating in the Taxation of Land Values, the time to demonstrate this fact is on November 1st, by supporting Mr. Gill. This applies to every trade unionist and co-operator, who, in supporting Mr. Gill, will be supporting the workers' movement.

A life-long trade unionist and co-operator, and director of one of the largest business concerns in the city—the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society Limited—Mr. Gill knows how to carry responsibility and how to deal with the huge business of managing a city like Sheffield. He has had a scholastic training, he is a good speaker, keen and energetic, and his political schooling has time to devote to the ever-increasing work of a city councillor.

WALKLEY WARD—

Mr. ALEX. LAING, J.P.,

the Labour candidate for Walkley, has begun his campaign in real earnest, and bids fair to finish on November 1st well at the top of the poll. At the meeting addressed by Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., a free tribute was paid to Mr. Laing's personality and to his business capacity as a director of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society. The workers of Walkley have discovered in their friend and neighbour a worthy representative to complete the trio of Labour representation in that area.

Mr. Laing's opponent, Councillor Reeves Charisworth, is fighting a lone fight as a so-called "Independent" candidate. The days of futile independent representation have gone by. Electors have to choose between progress and reaction, and in Mr. Laing we have



Mr. ALEX. LAING, J.P.

a representative with the capacity, the time, and the will to serve the people under the banner of a progressive party. Mr. Laing takes his stand with the Labour Party, he is rightly proud of the achievements of the local Labour government, and if elected will help to carry on their work to even greater triumphs.

More than one election has been lost to Labour by the apathy of the workers themselves. On this occasion every worker, by hand or brain; every co-operator, every trade unionist, every elector who believes in progress, should have no hesitation in casting his or her vote in favour of Mr. Laing, J.P.

NEEPSEND WARD—

Coun. J. A. LONGDEN

has presented a formidable problem to the Citizens' Association who have been seeking for weeks past for a candidate with courage enough to oppose a representative who has not only done his work remarkably well but found his way into the hearts of the Neepsend people. After many inquiries and a persistent search, a merely nominal candidate has been discovered. The Citizens' Association know perfectly well that Mr. Firth has not the proverbial dog's chance in this ward but it was hoped to divert the money, time, and energy of the progressive Party by running a freak candidate on the off chance of success.

Councillor J. A. Longden and his supporters are not likely to give the Citizens' Association even that off chance, and it would be a sad mistake on the part of the Neepsend people to turn down Councillor Longden after his firm



Councillor J. A. LONGDEN.

work on the Health, Improvement, Electric Supply, Old-Age Pensions, Hospitals (of which he is chairman), Cleansing and Baths, Sanitary, Maternity and Child Welfare committees. This, in addition to his membership of the Regional Sanitary Abatement Committee, the Regional Town Planning Committee, and as a nominated director of the Sheffield Gas Company. Councillor Longden has attended over 600 recorded meetings in addition to numerous special sub-committees and visitations in connection with the hospitals and individual cases needing attention in the Neepsend Ward.

As we see in connection with Councillor Longden's first appointment three years ago, we are confident that the people of Neepsend like a "six o'clock man—straight up and straight down." Three years of office in the City Council, many years of office as a director of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society, and thirty years' hard work in the trade union and Labour movements have not shaken Longden's faith in the principles of democracy. There is no possibility of any change in either opinion or party, so far as Longden is concerned, so that the workers of Neepsend if they want representation by a safe, sound, progressive man, must rely to the poll in overwhelming numbers in support of Councillor J. A. Longden—a real worker for the workers.

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NOVEMBER, 1928.

CO-OPERATION AND THE MUNICIPALITY.

In a few days' time the municipal elections will take place, and every co-operator should realise that too much importance cannot be attached to the election of the local City Council. Parliament may make its laws, good or bad. The Government Departments concerned—the Home Office, the Ministry of Health, or any other "bureaucratic" issue orders, insist on risksome and irritating methods, or hamper progressive efforts; but even within the existing powers, and notwithstanding the red tape of the Government offices, municipal councils have power, if they have the will, to do much to brighten the lives of the citizens.

Needless to say, the City Council has to be kept up to scratch by the pressure of public opinion. Sheffield has its own particular problems which the citizens cannot handle without proper regard to purely local circumstances; but every co-operator should desire to see the co-operative principle and co-operative methods applied to all the essential undertakings of this city. Co-operators have successfully combined to supply themselves with groceries and clothing, furnishings, fuel and milk. The advantages that they have gained by their collective effort in these directions are indicated by their attitude with regard to reducing the price of bread. These advantages should inspire them with a desire to see wasteful methods eliminated from municipal administration, and the advantages of co-operative effort derived from the supply of other necessities.

The cry for economy so influenced earlier Governments that schemes of useful work, recommended to Ministerial departments, were shelved because of the costs. This was particularly so for some years with regard to housing. The so-called "dole" was provided instead of wages to men willing to work. If only part of that money paid to men and women doing nothing had been used to capitalise useful schemes of public utility, both rates and taxes would have been much lighter than they are to-day; and labour, much of which is now physically unfit for employment, would have been kept lubricated and efficient, and would to-day be a greater source of communal wealth than it is.

During the next few days the reactionary Press will be clamouring for the application of the economy axe, and for the exertion of the "down rates" pledges from municipal candidates. Co-operators must guard against the success of such a campaign. They understand what economy means; they know that money well spent is money earned; they know that true economy is not mere miserliness; they know that municipal undertakings should all be directed to the improvement of the physical and moral tone of the community and on this occasion they should vote for the Co-operative and Labour candidates, who are the true economists, whose object is to stimulate the pride of community, raise the ideal of social achievement, and administer the affairs of the city in such wise as will effect the greatest good for the greatest number.

TOWARDS A HEALTHY CITY.

BY COUNCILLOR W. ASBURY (Chairman, Health Committee).

To have had the honour of being chairman of the Health Committee during the past two years has been a real source of joy and inspiration to the writer, because although the position carries with it great responsibilities, I have been supported by loyal and enthusiastic Labour and Co-operative colleagues, with no axes to grind, but with a desire to serve the best interests of the great mass of our fellow citizens.

Considerations of space will not permit of more than very brief reference to the remarkable achievements of the Labour and Co-operative group, but they should be sufficient alone to convince the electors that only by renewed confidence in us, not merely by retaining our present majority, but by adding to our numbers, can they expect matters dealing with public health to be in connection with accelerating the human demands of the many as against the vested interests of the few.

WE TACKLE TUBERCULOSIS.

We began by abolishing the waiting list for sanatoria treatment, by providing the necessary additional seating accommodation, and as against a waiting list of 147 persons urgently requiring sanatoria treatment in October, 1928, for whom there was no accommodation available, we can now take all cases in the early stages of the disease.

We next proceeded to make all the services free to the citizens. We also arranged, by appointing additional medical staff, to examine a much larger number of contacts, in order that, if possible, they might be safeguarded against the disease.

We improved the dietary and made better provision for recreation and amusement of the patients. In addition, we have broken away from the old idea of patching up, and in residential infectious cases we are taking a real and effective step in preventive measures.

Surgical Tuberculosis.

There being now no waiting list, we have applied to the Ministry of Health for permission to admit other cases, such as rickets, &c.

Our policy is crowned with excellent results, and we are able proudly to state that at the present time we have reduced the death-rate from tuberculosis to below that of any other town in the country.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Our new centre, the provision of which was too long delayed, has given us great scope for further development of this important branch of public health work, and the attendances of expectant mothers at our maternity clinic, where skilled medical advice is given free, is now at the rate of 5,000 per annum, as against 1,000 for the year ended December 31st, 1926. Three sessions are now held weekly. In addition, in difficult cases the expectant mother may be admitted to the Maternity Hospital and receive skilled medical treatment prior to the birth of her baby, for which no charge is made.

Our well-equipped maternity hospital is now reaching the stage of its fullest capacity.

At the baby consultations the development which has taken place is remarkable, and as against 48,707 at the rate of 50,000 per annum.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

We took complete control of this service in September of last year, and the blind beggars which had been begging in public houses, receiving small doles from the patronising hands of private charity, and seeking assistance from the Guardians were brought under the control of the minimum income to an end. A definite minimum was approved for those unable to work, and the committee was given authority to increase this in suitable cases. We are spending on this service alone £3,500 per annum. In addition to the £3,500 per annum, we immediately improved the position of the lowest paid wage-earners in the workshops by 8s. per week.

Land has been purchased at Sharrow, where we hope shortly to commence to erect a modern, one-storey building where, when completed, our blind employees will be able to work under healthy conditions, in beautiful surroundings, with an excellent canteen, baths, and a concert hall.

CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

A sum of £50,000 was included in the current year's estimates for the purpose of enabling us to proceed with the first instalment of a scheme to provide, when completed, for 600 patients on the Hollow Meadows site, but for reasons which are best known to the Government Departments from whom we must obtain sanction to proceed, all kinds of difficulties have been put in our way. We have been compelled to examine a number of other sites, all of which we were satisfied beforehand were unsuitable, and we have now got to the stage of having sketch plans prepared for the Hollow Meadows site.

It should be emphasized that the delay is entirely the responsibility of the Board of Control.

We have, however, persuaded them to permit us to temporarily rent Cliffe House, where we hope to accommodate twenty-nine patients until such times as the new institution is available.

We have already improved the dietary and clothing of those under our care, and have made better provision for recreation and amusement.

HOSPITALS.

Infectious Diseases. We have made a start with the long-delayed extensions at Lodge Moor, and hope to have two of the new wards completed by next Spring. This will enable us to deal with pneumonia, whooping cough, and measles on a much larger scale than hitherto.

Baths and Washhouses.

Committee decided that filtration plant is to be installed in all baths, at

the rate of one per year; but here again held up by Ministry of Health, and although we budgeted for Park Baths last winter, we have not yet received sanction.

Baths. Expert mason and masoness appointed at Glossop-road. No extra charge. Treatment can now be obtained which is equal in every way to that obtainable at expensive hydro and spas, but at considerably lower charges.

Police station at Winchbank purchased from Watch Committee, and tenders obtained for adaptation as slipper bath. There to be provided, and wash-house on adjoining site with twenty-four stalls.

Wash-house also to be provided on site adjoining Upperthorpe Baths, with twenty-four stalls.

Plans for the whole of the above have been approved by the committee. Waiting sanction of the Ministry of Health.

Site purchased for cottage baths at Woodhouse.

SANITARY.

The privy minden no longer exists where sewers are available.

We propose dealing with the remainder by compelling the provision of a w.c. and properly constructed cesspools in suitable cases.

The fixed asphalt is now really disappearing and 3,245 have been abolished during the past two years, a marked contrast with the record of the Tory Citizen Party, who only abolished 804 during the whole of their career.

The provision of one sanitary cubicle per house is at last being taken in hand, and here again actions speak louder than words. 8,705 of these necessary adjuncts to healthy home life have been provided by us, as against 169 provided during the whole of the régime of our anti-Labour and Anti-Co-operative opponents.

With regard to defective property, we have reduced the arrears to the minimum, and the staff now have instructions, in those cases where we have the legal power, to do the work in default if our notice is not complied with.

M.O.H.'s Department Reorganised.

We are exercising to the full our existing powers to ensure a clean and wholesome milk supply, and steps have already been taken to provide at our city hospitals milk for the patients of the best quality.

We are tackling in real earnest the question of smoke abatement, and have now appointed a special committee, with Professor Desch as chairman, for the purpose of research.

I trust that this by no means exhaustive summary of the work that we have undertaken on behalf of the well-being of the community will give encouragement to our supporters, and also win us further sympathisers, in order that we may further proceed with the plans we have already made to finally provide public health service which will be second to none in the country.

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BOOMERANG FOR ALDERMAN BLANCHARD

REPLY TO CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION'S ABSURD MANIFESTO.

Alderman Blanchard has been at some pains in his attempt to discredit Labour, and as Chairman of the Citizens' Association, has issued a Manifesto containing six proposals which we deal with in the following article.

POINT I. of the Citizens' new policy is "An immediate reduction in rates, by raising all standing committees on a definite basis."

Presumably this is the Citizens' method of economy. As a fact, however, the Labour Party fixed the rate in 1926-27 at 12s. 6d., and have kept it so, whilst increasing every one of the public services.

On the other hand, whilst Alderman Blanchard's party were in power, 1924-5, they transferred £377,054 from the trading departments in relief of rates. Now by the Electric Supply Act, 1926, the Labour Party have been obliged to restore to the Electric Supply Department Reserve equivalent to the amount that Alderman Blanchard's party took from these funds to relieve the rates. In short, the Labour Party has had to remedy the false steps taken by the Citizens' Association, and to repay thousands of pounds which they took for reduction of rates.

Furthermore, during this period the poor-rate in the east end has been increased from 2s. 11d. to 2s. 10d. This increase has been due to the liquidation of a debt incurred by the friends of Alderman Blanchard, and because an adequate rate was not levied before the debt of over £1,000,000 is a consequence of not providing currently for repayment. During the next ten years the interest charges will cost the city £400,000. This year's rate for the first time includes repayment of a debt incurred prior to Labour control.

POINT II. of the Citizens' Association policy is "A cheaper weekly train fare from all classes of workers."

This sounds all right until the facts are examined, when it will be found that from 1922 to 1926, Alderman Blanchard's party took from Tramway profits to relieve the rates no less than £121,000. But for this policy, tram fares could have been reduced long ago. In short, Alderman Blanchard's performance and promise are two very different things.

POINT III. of the Citizens' Association manifesto is "That houses should be let at cheaper rents for workers with small incomes."

The Labour Party has reduced the cost, and is providing houses at lower rents than did Alderman Blanchard's Party; in addition to which, a far better class of house is being built at this reduced cost and reduced rent than heretofore.

POINT IV. of the Citizens' Association manifesto is "To promote definite schemes of work for the unemployed and make every effort to improve trade."

This, from a member of the Tory Citizens' Party! This after four years of Tory national government! This, with the full knowledge that the Labour Party brought forth no less than thirty-eight schemes of work for Sheffield unemployed, and most of them have been turned down by Alderman Blanchard's friends at Westminster. Why,

even now the City Council is waiting for sanction for schemes totalling £2,200,000 for work for the unemployed. Alderman Blanchard should direct his pressure and criticism to his own party friends in the National Government.

POINT V. of the Citizens' Association manifesto is "To revise in control of the City's affairs to the people's elected representatives."

The testimony of Lord Younger is sufficient answer to the bogey that Alderman Blanchard sets up. Lord Younger, chairman of the House of Lords Committee, when considering the Sheffield Corporation Bill, said: "We shall have no concern for the able administration of the affairs of Sheffield whilst Councillor Rowlinson, who has been before for a long time, is leader of the Sheffield City Council." —(Extract from "Sheffield Independent" 24/8/25.)

We have not forgotten Alderman Blanchard's effort to discredit the City and the Council before, when Alderman Blanchard sets up. Lord Younger, chairman of the House of Lords Committee, when considering the Sheffield Corporation Bill, said: "We shall have no concern for the able administration of the affairs of Sheffield whilst Councillor Rowlinson, who has been before for a long time, is leader of the Sheffield City Council." —(Extract from "Sheffield Independent" 24/8/25.)

POINT VI. of the Citizens' Association manifesto is "To maintain efficiency in all essential social services without extravagance."

The Labour Party manifesto, printed on another page of this journal, is sufficient answer to this; but in a speech delivered at Hillsborough during the present campaign, Alderman Blanchard complained about capital expenditure being increased by £2,250,000. He omits to explain an increase in assets of almost £2,000,000, such assets being of a revenue providing character. Moreover, the money spent has been spent in health, education, housing, and trading services. How can we maintain the "efficiency in essential services" without capital expenditure?

Whilst he talks about the necessity of doing this work, the Labour Party is actually performing the work.

INTEREST.

With regard to the Alderman's statement that the interest on loans amounts to 5s. in the pound, this is entirely erroneous. The total loan charges, on both interest and sinking fund, falling on the rate, amount to about 2s. in the pound.

Furthermore, Alderman Blanchard conveniently forgets the opposition of himself and friends in the City Council and at Westminster to the Labour Party's proposal for a Bill to establish Municipal Banks. After using all the power of the Tory Party and the money-bags to prevent our progress, he now seeks to place the discreditable action of his own friends at the door of the Labour Party. Surely he is attempting to trade upon and sinking fund, falling on the rate, amount to about 2s. in the pound.

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RATING OF LAND VALUES.

MAKE THE LANDOWNERS PAY.

BY "VULGANITE."

COUNCILLOR BARTON is to be commended on a very thoughtful and striking report on the rating of land values, which was accepted by the City Council at its last meeting.

The report shows that our present system of rating is unsatisfactory. The city grows, and consequently the value of land goes up until in the centre of the city it is simply enormous. Yet the tenants pay all the rates, and the owner (unless he uses the land himself, when he pays as occupier) gets away with it.

The argument is that if a tax is placed on site values, it would be passed on to the tenants. So it would, if all land were fully used. But in every city there is always a lot of land either not used or only partially used. Under our present system these sites are not rated, or only in proportion to their use, so that it is a premium on inefficient use. Yet these same sites when "tips" are sold at an enormous price. Under the rating of land values they would be rated at their selling or capital value (which is roughly twenty times the annual value); or to put it another way, annual value is roughly 5 per cent. that is, a twentieth of capital value).

Naturally in those circumstances, it would not pay owners to keep their land idle or only partially used, and this land would be thrown on the market. Consequently, the present owners would not put up rent while other sites were thrown open for sale or hire and the owners of the sites, the actual landowners, would be able to pay the land value rate and could not pass it on.

At the same time, it would encourage the use of land and cause greater amount of employment.

The report gives some startling figures as to land purchased by the corporation. Take one or two instances.

The rent of the Masos Estate previous to purchase was approximately £665 6s. 3d. At twenty-times, i.e., the capital value, it should have worked out at £13,310. The corporation actually paid £47,000. Yet the rates had been based on £5,300 not on £17,000. At Dykes Hall the rental value previous to purchase was £70. If that was the real value that should have sold at £1,400. The corporation had to pay £9,000 for it. Bishes Estate on a twenty years' valuation should have been bought for £7,000. It actually cost £22,500. Yet the previous owners of these sites were paying rates on the smaller amount.

The report also proves that where the system has been tried in our Colonies or elsewhere, it has encouraged the use of land and reduced the rates on house-holders at the expense of idle landowners.

Naturally one expected a reasoned reply, or even support from Citizen members who presume to be Liberals. The chief opponent, however, was Alderman Blanchard (a former Liberal). He denounced the proposal as fantastic, and said that so far as the older countries were concerned the theory was unworkable.

If the system had been in operation the new Brightside and Carbrook co-operative premises would have cost a bit more. They had paid £40,000 for the site, and the rating would have cost another £40,000. If the scheme had been in operation it would have been impossible to have made eighty feet roads on Harries-road and Whirlwood-road. Finally, it would encourage skyscrapers.

Councillor Rowlinson made a good speech in defence of a fairer system of rating. The Council made roads and improvements, and all the increased value went to the landowners. Sky-

scrapers were going up; whatever that rating system.

Councillor Barton gave a vigorous reply. The Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Soc. city would have had to pay rates on their unused land, but the probable result would have been that they would have started the job years ago. But what they lost in the centre they would have gained in the branches, which were a distance from the centre of the city.

As for Harries-road and Whirlwood-road, if site values had been taxed the cost of the land for these schemes would have been considerably less, and the value accruing from the improvements would have gone to the community instead of the landowners.

The proposals were not so academic as had been suggested. It was conceivable they might have a Councillor of the Eschequer in a year or two who would be including something of the sort in his Budget.

The present system allowed the landowner, who did nothing but own the land, to appropriate wealth created by communal effort and pay no rates in return.

The value of the land in the centre of the city had grown out of all proportion. In High-street the value of the land doubled every ten years and some of the prices paid were extraordinary. Only recently a piece of land was sold at a price which worked out at over £4,800,000 per acre.

He was told a syndicate of wealthy Jews were buying up and controlling High-street. What it was true or not the increase in values was enormous.

The report was adopted by the Council, and copies of the report can be obtained by those interested from the Town Hall. It may say in confirmation of the above that a corporation committee which recently wanted a strip of land at Woodcote, over three miles from the centre of the city, was quoted £3,000 per acre.

Modern Past.

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