



The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



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WOMEN AND POLITICS. WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE LABOUR.

BY COUNCILLOR W. G. ROBINSON.

Tories are claiming the credit for putting women of twenty-one years of age on the voting register. The fact is that they resisted the inevitable right up to the last minute.

From 1906 to 1913, six Women's Suffrage Bills were defeated in the House of Commons by Tories and Liberals in combination. Since 1918, when the elder women were reluctantly placed upon the register by the Coalition Government, five Labour and Co-operative Bills, giving votes to women at twenty-one years of age, were defeated or blocked either by the Coalition or successive Tory Governments.

In 1924, Mr. Baldwin pledged himself to Equal Suffrage—yet again, when Labour and Co-operative introduced a Bill on those lines in 1925, it was defeated by the Tories. When, eventually, in 1928, Mr. Baldwin at last fulfilled his pledge, 137 Tory members, including three Cabinet Ministers, and twelve junior Ministers, refrained from voting for it.

A Stern Necessity.

Why did Mr. Baldwin force Equal Suffrage through against the overwhelming feeling of the Tory Party? Simply because on grounds of electoral expediency he dare not do otherwise. Winston Churchill apologized in the following terms: "I have never recalled that I would have been glad if the matter had been put off until a later period." (November 20th, 1919).

Neville Chamberlain completely gave the game away: "I think one may take it for granted that both the other parties would certainly have given it if we had not, and we should have been placed at a considerable disadvantage at the election." (November 29th, 1917).

The Political Factor.

Traditionally, women have argued that they have no concern with politics. Unfortunately, they do not realize that politics is the dominant factor in their domestic life from the cradle to the grave. But, to-day, more than ever the life and condition of women, especially of the working-class women, is closely affected by political legislation.

Housing.

The health and well-being of a nation is largely dependent upon decent housing conditions. The family with young children is frequently unable to pay the rent of suitable accommodation, and it is the women and children who suffer most seriously from this difficulty. Prevention and tuberculosis, two of the most deadly enemies of mankind, exert their evil influence in the congested festering slum areas.

The remedy is more, and still more, Government in 1927 reduced the subsidy to £7 10s. 10d. working-class house, and have given notice that on October next the subsidy will be reduced further to £6 per house, thus retarding the progress of house building.

Co-operative and Labour politics provide increased housing for the workers.

Tory and Liberal politics decreases that provision.

Woman as Mother.

Maternity and child welfare.—During the last ten years the average number of women in England who gave birth to children was 730,000 each year. Each year 3,000 of that number died in childbirth, 70 per cent. of them were under thirty-five years of age, also there are thousands whose health is permanently impaired.

One of the first steps taken by the Labour Government in 1924 was to issue a circular removing the restrictions on grants for health services. An immediate consequence was the extension of welfare schemes for maternity and child welfare. Milk supplies were increased, more beds provided in homes for mothers and babies, more health visitors appointed, and about seventy new infant welfare centres opened.

In 1924, Labour, as part of a far-reaching scheme for improving education, abolished limitation of expenditure on school meals, invited proposals for nursery schools, &c., but the Tories abandoned the scheme on the score of economy.

Compare this with the Tory reduction of grants to provide milk for nursing mothers and children in 1913.

At a conference on maternity and child welfare, in October last, a woman asked Mr. Chamberlain why he had cut down the milk supply in maternity and child welfare centres. Mr. Chamberlain de-

nied it. But what are the facts? The Minister of Health, in answer to a question by Mr. Thurtle, said: "It is estimated that the total amount of the Exchequer grants payable to local authorities in respect of their expenditure for this purpose during the present financial year, will be about £12,000 less than would have been the case in normal circumstances."

Wise spending is true economy. Labour politics opposes saving which starves babies and essential public services.

In December last Margaret Benfield, Labour M.P., asked the support of the House of Commons for a Bill to provide footwear for children in the distressed areas. But the Tories and Liberals turned the proposal down on the grounds of economy. So the poor children have to go without boots because the political party in power has refused to face its responsibilities.

Woman as Worker.

There are approximately 5,000,000 women working in industry in Great Britain. Prior to 1921 their unemployment benefit was 12s. per week. The Labour Government increased this to 15s. per week. But under the New Unemployment Act of the Tories, now in operation, the women of twenty-one years of age and over, still get 15s. per week, the benefit to young women, viz., women of twenty years of age, but under twenty-one, 12s. weekly; women of nineteen, but under twenty, 10s. weekly; women of eighteen, but under nineteen, 8s. weekly.

Originally, the Tory proposal was for a flat rate of 8s. for men eighteen to twenty-one, and 5s. for women eighteen to twenty-one. These starvation rates were strongly opposed by the Co-operative and Labour members of the House.

The Pensions Scheme Exposed.

When the Contributory Pensions Scheme was introduced, Labour and Co-operative M.P.s said: "It would rob the old folks, deprand the widows, and it made the poor maintain the poor, and so forth. Some of these prophecies have already been fulfilled."

In reply to a question by Mr. Robinson, M.P., on January 24th last, the Minister of Health admitted that there were 69,325 old people between the ages of sixty-five and seventy, who applied for old-age pensions during last year, but whose applications were refused by the Government.

What Have the Tories Done?

They have been in power with a great majority since 1921. They could do what they thought necessary for the good of the people. But they have enriched the rich and made the poor poorer.

There are still more than a million-and-a-quarter unemployed, and hundreds of thousands who cannot get unemployment benefit.

They have refused to bring forward the promised Factory Bill which would have improved conditions, especially for women workers, the bulk of whom are under thirty years of age.

Wages have gone down for millions of workers under the Tory Government. Wages went up when Labour was in office in 1924.

This Government has increased the taxes on clothes. It put a tax on gloves, silk, and artificial silk. This means that all these goods cost more. It has taxed food and many other necessities. With low wages, unemployment, and high prices, women have not much chance for the happy life that all unusually healthy young women have a right to expect.

What Co-operation and Labour Stands For.

The protection against exploitation of the worker and the consumer. The increase of the national wealth by the application to production and distribution of the possibilities revealed by the progress of scientific knowledge, and of the art of administration. The utilisation for the public benefit of the surplus wealth which to-day too often enriches and degenerates a small minority of the population. The systematic pursuit of a policy of peace and co-operation in international affairs.

Co-operation and Labour believes in: Giving a young couple a chance to start out happily on married life together with a home to themselves and enough wages to keep them well above the poverty line.

The Co-operative and Labour Party's policy is to create a new social order for the children's future happiness, to respect and build the good and all our existing humanity; to create a system of society wherein the highest aspirations and ideals of womanhood shall find expression.

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AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

BY COUNCILLOR A. BARTON.

The usual City Council meeting was held on Wednesday, February 6th. The Lord Mayor made sympathetic reference to the bereavement of Alderman Graves, whose wife had died whilst they were on a holiday in India, and the Council decided to cable their deep sympathy to him.

Dustbins.

As this matter is receiving considerable attention at the present moment, although it was not discussed at the Council, it may be as well to state the facts of the matter.

The proposal to charge for dustbins was included in the Parliamentary Bill, and was actually discussed at the inquiry, and the Council of the Property-owners did not object to it. There have been several opportunities to bring the matter up in the Council and elsewhere, but not a word of protest until the demand notes have actually been issued. So that on the Council there has been nothing dictatorial about it. Nor is the Council proffering. It is simply carrying out its duties of looking after the health and amenities of the city.

There have been serious complaints for many years of the unsatisfactory and unhealthy methods of collecting refuse, and after careful investigation the Council has decided to inaugurate a new and outclass method of doing so. In place of the present bins, which cost about 75s. 6d., the new bins will cost about 175s. 6d. each, and the dust carts will also cost more. In the new method the dust carts will consist of a cylinder, with a number of apertures placed in a row, on three levels of the cylinder. These apertures will be quite closed and dust proof.

The bin itself, after refuse has been put in, will close itself by a slight movement, so that the householder will not need to lift the lid on each occasion. The dustmen will take the closed bin to the cart, hang it on a hook, and tilt it till the lid fits the aperture on the cylinder. The lid of the aperture automatically opens this lid, and when the bin is emptied, closes it once more, without for one moment letting a particle of dust go in the air, and the closed bin is taken back into the yard. When one side of the cylinder is full, a lever turn it round, and a new set of apertures are ready.

This system has been in use for many

years in some German cities, and is a tremendous improvement on anything in this country. Of course, it cannot be installed all at once, and one district is being taken at a time. The gas-bin abolishes the landlord from providing bins in future, and as its turn of the district comes round the new bins will be installed. The amount charged will, at most, pay the cost of the new system, and the city's rates will not be saved in any way, and houseowners who have any regard for the health of the city will be only too pleased to assist the Corporation in this great improvement, which has been long called for.

Tramway Contracts.

To return to the Council, there were questions as to a contract given to Messrs. Steel, Basch, and Towner for tram rails, as the works at Rotherham had been closed down. It was pointed out that the work would be done at Stocksbridge.

Blind Persons.

In reference to a report of a conference, it was pointed out that Sheffield was the only town in the country carrying out to the full the provisions of the Ministry, and keeping a proper control of its finances.

Electricity.

Under the national scheme for the control of electricity, Sheffield will be included in the East Midland area, and all its resources be pooled. The remarkable fact emerges that Sheffield could gain little or nothing from such pooling, because its efficiency and prices are already so much better than any other power station in the area.

Unemployment.

The Government has made a grant towards the new extensions on the sewage works, but they have laid down very stringent conditions. At first they laid it down that all the men employed must be ex-servicemen, but afterwards modified it to 75 per cent. No one is to be employed for more than twelve weeks at a time, except to a number of key men. As to per cent of men have had to be discharged on account of the completion of the previous work, there will be no more employment, and those employed under irritating conditions. The help granted by the Government is farcical. Councillor Oates later reported a deputation to the Government

protesting against the transference scheme, and asking for more assistance, but with the usual evasive replies.

Printing.

Alderman Blanchard made an attack on the balance sheet of the printing department, which showed a profit of £7,185. Alderman Blanchard said there was no check on prices, but Alderman said all work had been done at 1920 prices. Alderman Blanchard said it was not real profit, as it was only taking from one pocket to put in another, but as Alderman Watkins told him, that was a compliment to it, as previously it had gone into the contractor's pocket. In fact, the criticism only emphasised the fact that the department had been a brilliant success.

Mr. Medcraft's Sinsiders.

Councillor Skelton took the occasion of the Bunds' Sub-Committee's minutes to make a vigorous attack on remarks of Mr. Medcraft, who had spoken of time-servers and place-seekers in connection with the Council's vote on Sunday concerts, and he said it was high time Mr. Medcraft apologized for or justified what he had said.

Councillor Rowlinson also dealt with statements that the Mission had, under pressure, to give up the Albert Hall, and further statements that, because they in conjunction with a number of others, had had to put their cinema apparatus in order, the Council was perspicuous about it.

I am afraid that Mr. Medcraft has not strengthened his position in the city by wild assertions of his character, and it would have been more manly on his part to have withdrawn them. One might excuse a few hasty remarks, but not when one maintains them in spite of evidence to the contrary.

Sunday Bands.

Councillor Harold Jackson seems to be fated to take up losing causes. It was formerly to take up the case of supernumerated and unnecessary police inspectors, and now he devoted himself to the task of opposing Sunday concerts. He admitted that something ought to be done for the people on a Sunday evening, but he said it is the Churches business, and it was time the Church woke up to her responsibility in the matter. But surely if the thing is good, it cannot be wrong for the Council to take it up, and other members, including Dr. Froggatt, strangely defended the concert. The resolution was hopelessly defeated.

"OLD SHEFFIELD"

AT THE MUSEUM IN WESTON PARK.

It is to be hoped that every citizen of Sheffield will take advantage of the opportunity to visit the finest and best arranged collection of Sheffield antiquities ever exhibited in the city.

The Museum is open from 10 o'clock to dusk, and on Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m., and is easily accessible by the Hives and Fulwood cars.

We have just received a catalogue, for which the price charged is 50, though this is far below the actual cost of printing. It is worth keeping as a historical record, even if it were not for the interest taken in the gallery. In the earliest times, the old Stone Age, there are relics, and will illustrate the later periods of the new times. In regard to the latter, a replica of a diploma of discharge (in bronze) of a Roman soldier, known as Zivolis, is extremely interesting, as are also the Roman coins found at Whiteoak.

There is a facsimile copy of the original Sheffield charter granted in 1297, by Robert de Furnival; there are relics dug up at Sheffield Castle from the time when Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned there; there are some of the workmen when money was scarce; there are pictures of Sheffield and the life of its people dating from the middle of the eighteenth century to the end of the nineteenth, including contemporary records of the great Sheffield flood of 1864, a most complete and fascinating panorama of the past of the city could not have been gathered together than is here shown for the enjoyment of Sheffield folk.

One who is concerned is, "Go with the going's good."

"THE PEOPLE'S YEAR BOOK," 1920.

ROMANCE does not usually fill the pages of an annual. The exception is a diploma of discharge from the "The People's Year Book" (1920). Some 300 pages tell the story, in one way or another, of the greatest democratic force in trade and commerce that the world has ever known, namely, the co-operative movement.

It will be a revelation to the ordinary reader to find that in Great Britain there are getting well on to six million people, whose trading is done through the medium of the co-operative store amounted to the gigantic sum of £324,490,307 last year, and who shared amongst themselves a surplus of nearly £27,000,000. Some 1,240 co-operative societies got supplies from the English Co-operative Wholesale Society to the amount of over £27,000,000, whilst 57 similar societies over the border bought from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society to the extent of nearly £15,000,000.

That is only typical of what is going on in every civilised country in the world. Over forty countries have under review, and must have amongst them over 50,000,000 of co-operators.

"The People's Year Book" has not only a comprehensive international co-operative, but also a broad appeal to all countries, and is "The World Machine of Credit," by that eminent economist, Mr. A. authority, Sir George Paish. V. Alexander, M.P., tackles the pressing problem of "Unemployment, Purchasing Power, and Prices," and "The Trustification of the Press," are other features of distinction.

Facts and figures of impressive force are pleasantly relieved by cultural and artistic features, art, drama, science, and literature being surveyed for the past year, whilst twenty-four pages of fine intaglio pictures and portraits of celebrities are interspersed.

"The People's Year Book" is issued a valuable contribution of social progress during 1920. It is published by the Co-operative Press, Manchester, for the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies, Manchester, whence it may be obtained at 2s. 6d. in cloth.

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MR. ALEXANDER AT ECCLESALL. LIBERALS' WRETCHED RECORD.

BUSINESS VALUE OF POLITICAL ACTION.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

MR. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., addressed a large and enthusiastic meeting in the St. Matthias' School, Parliament-street, on Friday, February 8th. Councilor J. A. Lottgen (chairman of the Sheffield Co-operative Party) presided, and Mr. Harold Wilkinson (chairman of the junior section of the Co-operative Party) also spoke.

Business Interests in Parliament.
Mr. Alexander dealt with the case for Co-operative political representation in Parliament, showing that more and more Parliament was concerning itself with industrial affairs, and industrialists—business men representative of practically every industry in the country—were largely represented in the House of Commons. Capitalist interests handed together in such bodies as the Federation of British Industries, the Association of the Chambers of Commerce, not only place their views before the Government on practically every measure, but often go further and press the administration to adopt some special line of procedure, or introduce some legislation advantageous to them.

Paid Representatives.
It is apparent to any experienced person that these bodies have a lien upon the services of Members of Parliament who, by political action support and forward their interests on all occasions. The effect of this penetration can be gathered by any experienced Member of Parliament who has watched the trend of affairs for the last decade or more. The National Farmers' Union

put forward members who are officially run by the union out of its political funds. The National Federation of Meat Traders affords another example of commercial interests entering into politics. It should be said that State interference in commerce brought traders into Parliament, and they have not been slow to take advantage—so gained for their advantage, and often against their less fortunate or less vigilant rivals.

Consumers' Representation.
Mr. Alexander proceeded to show the effect of Co-operative representation from the purely business point of view. The continuation of the Sale of Food Order, the abolition of the Corporation Profits Tax as applied to the co-operative movement, the imposition of the imposition of unjust income tax, the amendment of the Industrial Insurance Act, the alteration of regulations in connection with the Pharmaceutical Society, the amendment of the Housing Act, 1920, amendment of the Optical Registration Act, and an Act designed to register architects were given as a few examples of the influence upon legislation by Co-operative Members of Parliament. The removal of restrictions on the importation of Canadian cattle, the sale and the use of ten by net weight, the protection of the term "Co-operative," the opposition to anomalies under the Merchandise Marks Act and the imposition of duties under the Safeguarding of Industries Act were detailed to demonstrate that public opinion of itself was not sufficient to protect the ever-growing interests of the co-operative movement as a great business concern. On the other hand, the co-operative movement was the only organized body which represented the consumer as such, and the effect of political action had been to secure representation on Government committees, where we had been hitherto absent. Committees on Industry and Trade, National Debt and Taxation, Advisory Committee of the Export Trade Department of the Board of Trade, Inter-departmental Committee on the Price of Building Materials, Milk Advisory Committee, Committee for Education in Salesmanship, Coal Advisory Committee, Fuel Committee, Gas Marketing Board, were instances as examples of this particular type of representation.

Propaganda Value.
Moreover, the mere propaganda value of political action was enormous. The movement is now consulted more frequently by Government departments than ever before, and evidence has been given before the Royal Commission on Food Prices, the Committee on Food Law Amendment, the Committee Inquiring into Night Baking, and other committees in which it was possible to place before the responsible department the experience of consumers' co-operation as examples of honest trading with legitimate surplus instead of profiteering.

Protective Legislative Action.
Mr. Alexander showed how the recent boycott by the gramophone companies, the boycott by the Proprietary Articles Traders' Association, the attempted boycott by the drapers and some grocery supply factors, could only be properly dealt with by legislative action. He gave striking examples of huge profits in the gramophone business, and concluded by showing that a movement with 5,000,000 members—representing over 20,000,000 people—must of necessity take its place in the councils of the nation. He made no apology for the very meagre amount of money spent in political action; already this expenditure had been returned a hundred-fold. What was needed was increased representation.

The address was received with enthusiasm, and Mr. Alexander replied to questions in a highly satisfactory manner.

Sir HERBERT SAMUEL has spent many days floundering in the quicksands of his own words. His unconvincing attempts to unsway what he said at Newcastle, when he let the cat out of the bag so completely with regard to the Liberal's secret pro-Tory plans for after the next election; his subsequent "explanations" of what he meant to say; and the further "explanations" that he found were necessary in order to explain the meaning of the earlier explanations; these have sadly shattered his reputation among his own associates for political sagacity.

But when he descends from the realm of hypothesis, and attempts to palm off on the country, as a statement of fact, something that is almost entirely at variance with the actual position, it is necessary that his version should be countered with the real facts as soon as possible, lest some of the electors should be misled by his plausibility.

This is what he now says:—
The Liberal Party at all the main items of immediate national concern, was fully united—free trade, industrial reform, the policy to be adopted with regard to the mines, and with reference to unemployment, international peace, and disarmament. (At Preston on February 2nd, as reported in the "Sunday Times").
And this is what we say in reply:—
If it is true that the Liberal Party are united, how is it that whenever there are equally important questions come up for consideration in Parliament, the Liberals are split into three groups, one group voting one way, another group voting the other way against them, and the other group not voting at all? These are not idle words, like Sir Herbert Samuel's. They can be backed up with hard facts, taken from the official division lists of the House of Commons. Here are a few of them:—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—The Labour Party, on May 6th, 1917, introduced its Bill for the Prevention of Unemployment.
Four Liberals voted for the Bill.
Three voted against.
Thirty-three did not vote at all.
MINING INDUSTRY.—On the Government's Mining Industry Bill, introduced on June 23rd, 1916—an entirely inadequate Bill, by the way, for the re-organization of the coal industry—the Liberals, on the third reading, were divided like this:—

Seven voted for the Bill.
Eleven voted against.
Twenty-two did not vote at all.
On a Labour motion, expressing dissatisfaction with the Government's policy of longer hours and lower wages

for the miners, moved on June 15th, 1920:—

Fifteen Liberals voted with Labour.
Fourteen voted with the Tories.
Eleven did not vote at all.
DEBATES.—On the second reading of the Tory Government's Local Government Bill (the Denting scheme) this session:

Twenty-three Liberals voted against the Bill.
Seven voted for.
Fourteen did not vote at all.
DEBATES.—On a Labour amendment to the Navy Estimates on March 15th, 1920, calling for a substantial all-round reduction in naval armaments and asking the British Government to initiate a proposal for the abolition of submarines:—

Ten Liberals supported Labour.
Eighteen supported the Tories.
Twenty-eight did not vote at all.

PETROL TAX.—On the Petrol Tax in the last Budget:—
Eight Liberals voted for the tax.
Eighteen voted against.
Seventeen did not vote at all.
SAFEGUARDING.—Even on this question, which is supposed to be one of the sacred points in the Liberal creed, less than one-half of the Liberals could be mustered in support of a Labour amendment criticising the Government's policy.
Two Liberals voted with the Government.
Twenty-one voted against.
Twenty-one did not vote at all.

SALE OF THE STATE CABLES.—Sir Herbert Samuel will, no doubt, agree that this is a matter of "immediate national concern," yet on the Tory Bill to hand over the cables to a private combine:—

Nine Liberals voted with the Tories for the Bill.
Seven voted with Labour against the Bill.
Twenty-eight did not vote at all.

HACING.—This, too, is a matter of "immediate national concern," yet on May 15th last, when Labour moved the reduction of the Ministry of Health vote to call attention to the inadequate consideration given by the Government to the housing conditions of the people:—

Five Liberals voted with Labour.
Three voted with the Tories.
Thirty-five did not vote at all.
There are dozens of other examples of Liberal disunity that might be quoted. To set, there is hardly a question of importance that comes before the House in which the Liberals do give a solid vote. Frequently they cancel one another out, and for all the difference that they make to the divisions, they might as well not be in Parliament at all. C. E. L.

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JUNIOR PARTY NOTES.

FEBRUARY.

We commenced our February programme on Wednesday, February 6th, when Mr. J. H. Bingham gave us an excellent address on "National Finance."

On February 13th the Rev. H. Cecil, who is well-known in local educational circles, gave an address on "£1,000,000 for Education: Is It Worth It?"

An encouraging sign at both the above lectures was the amount of discussion which followed, and we hope that this standard will be kept up by the members on all future occasions.

On February 20th "The House went into Committee" (extracts from Citizenship course), and the rambling activities for the season were arranged and the week-end school was provisionally fixed for July 13th.

Preliminary arrangements were made in respect of visiting places of interest connected with local co-operative societies and municipal undertakings to follow on after completion of our March programme.

Social Activities.

A DANCE has been arranged for Saturday, March 6th, at the S & E Arcade Banqueting Hall, Ecclesall-road, from 7.30 to 11 p.m.

Programmes are now obtainable from all members.

A further dance will be held at the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute early in April, and we hope members will give their full support and help to make them a real social success.

CHEERIO.

So He Carries On.

An old bed-singer in a parish, though in his eightieth year, performed his duties regularly. But he was rather stout of the suggestion made by the new vicar that, in consideration of his great age, he thought it was time he retired and put aside his work.

"Look'e here, sir," replied the old man cheerfully, "I was bred and born in this place, and in no time I've seen five vicars of the parish desk, and I would like to make it a half-dozen before I give up myself."

Heard This One?

He had been to a friend's party and stayed too late. Consequently, when he set out to return to his home three miles away, carrying the gramophone and three dozen records he had brought to entertain matters, he was roused to see the lights of the last car disappearing down the road.

This annoyance was slightly enhanced as he crossed in the midnight breeze and caught the sight of the "Wayside Pulpit" at the Methodist Chapel, which can always go a long way after you think you are exhausted.

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Every Pair Guaranteed to Give Satisfaction.

Style and Substance in Suit to Customers.

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

Brightside and Carbrook Society's Success.

This report of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society again half-year ending January 31st in trade, shows a substantial increase in trade, membership, and capital—on the traditional basis, the total for 1919-20, making a total income for the year of £1,415.45; a total increase in share capital, £48,846; membership increase, 4,435.

The directors are proposing a dividend of 1s. 8d. in the pound, and announce of its early payment—in April—of the newly-erected of the Waingate site-central premises on the Waingate up-to-date lines, and it is anticipated that there will be a great increase in trade as a result of these new facilities, particularly in the dry goods.

The members and the directors are to be congratulated on the continued increase of trade and membership in spite of the prevalent unemployment in the city.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Society's Excellent Report.

The half-yearly report of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society is again a thorough justification for the sound business methods of the directors, coupled with a social outlook that bids fair to capture the city for co-operation; for whilst the directors are recommending a dividend of 2s. 8d. in the pound (after paying full interest on the members' share capital, the usual high rates of depreciation, grants to the education fund, Employees' Mutual Aid Association, benevolent fund, and also making provision for development and alteration of properties) they are still carrying a small balance to next half-year. The increase under review amounts to £43,023, whilst the sales for the year are the largest yet recorded in the society, viz. £1,059,288. The increase of membership for the year totals 2,358, and now reaches the grand total of 40,072. The increase in the number of depositors in the penny bank to the extent of 1,321, making a grand total of 11,730. The amount standing to the credit of depositors, who, it will be remembered, cannot deposit more than £20 each, now stands at £32,379.

The detailed statement of the land and buildings account is a triumph of careful business management and sound investment for the future, for the difference between cost and normal value, i.e., the amount at which these buildings stand on the balance sheet compared with the original cost and the cost of alterations and additions, is no less than £61,856. It should be remembered also in this connection that, in the main, these properties have actually appreciated in value.

So one could go on through the share investments account, loan and deposit investments account, the fixtures, plant, and machinery account, demonstrating that the dividend of 2s. 8d. in the pound is an actual and clear trading surplus paid after every allowance has been made to consolidate the business foundation of the society, and to prepare for future development as competition becomes keener.

How any wage-earner, or salary-earner for that matter, can take his or her trade outside the co-operative store passes comprehension. It must be that even yet the movement is not sufficiently advertising its tremendous advantages to those who work by either hand or brain, as opposed to those who live by mere ownership.

Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers.

Our Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers have issued their handbook and syllabus for 1920. The Sheffield Press, as well as the Co-operative and Labour Press, have given excellent notices of same. The "Daily Herald" says: "This syllabus programme, its itinerary being a mere detail of an excellent literary anthology, upon his selection of the beauties of literature. . . . The booklet also contains many photographs of the

natural beauties of Yorkshire and Derbyshire, not the least entrancing of which City of the Forge."

The handbook may be obtained from the Party Office, 17, Bankers-street, ordered through any co-operative grocery store. Handbook (including maps) New Build on Manor Estate.

A new co-operative men's guild has been opened on the Manor Estate, on February 12th. Mrs. Austin (secretary) and Mr. B. Guilds (Secretary) presided. Yorkshire Men's Guild Federation give an address. Mr. W. H. Taylor was appointed president, and Mr. C. H. H. secretary. Meetings are to be held every Wednesday evening at 7.30, in the Co-operative branch. Men co-operators will be heartily welcomed at any of the meetings.

Co-operation stops profiteering and unfair dealing.

The trust measure of civilisation is found in our capacity to work together.

Co-operation is the best means of protection for home and family.

The best bulwark to your home is co-operative membership.

Co-operation means full value for the money you spend.

Co-operation means good food and clothing, and a comfortable home.

A co-operative store is owned by the member-customers.

Co-operation means pure and unadulterated goods, and pure and unadulterated profits.

Co-operation means just weight and correct measure.

Co-operation means full value for money.

Test the truth of co-operative claims by joining the society.

The true co-operator is the best citizen.

By trading as a co-operator you save as you spend.

Millions of people save money by co-operating; why not you?

Profits in trade should belong to the people who made that trade, namely, the customers. Co-operation alone causes this.

The success which has attended the co-operative movement should invite all to join it.

Co-operative practice means equitable division of the profits of trade and industry.

The question is "Can we better ourselves?" The answer is "Yes" by joining the co-operative society.

Capital is essential to civilisation; co-operation is essential to control and use it for the good of the people.

Competition enables individuals to amass wealth; co-operation with society competence FOR ALL.

Some people used to say that co-operation was contrary to human nature. Now they know that co-operation is a human necessity.

"OUR CIRCLE" MONTHLY ONE PENNY

A Clean and Popular Magazine for Young Folk. It is published by the Sheffield Co-operative Society, Ltd., 17, Bankers-street, Sheffield.

Published by the National Co-operative Publishing Society, Ltd., 24, Lionel-Street, London, E.C.

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Sheffield Co-operator

MARCH, 1926.

BALDWINISM versus CO-OPERATION.

In Mr. Baldwin's speech at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, is indicative of the policy of the Conservative Party for the forthcoming general election, we must conclude a total bankruptcy of constructive ideas in Toryism. For, take away the purely denunciatory remarks from the Premier's speech, and there is nothing left to appeal even to Tories themselves, let alone to vast numbers who are going to exercise their franchise for the first time.

The Premier, like the Press which supports him, loses his confidence of success upon the total ignorance of the masses of the people on matters both economic and political. For no intelligent citizen who has taken even the slightest interest in politics for the last twenty or even ten years can fail to have observed the total failure of capitalism as a system of industry. In the great mining industry, the iron and steel industry, the textile trades, and the greatest industry of all—agriculture, the so-called system of private ownership and enterprise has failed so abjectly to supply the needs of the people that whatever mistakes may have been made in Nationalisation, none could certainly equal the stupendous and abject collapse of privately-owned concerns. A Statesman who denounces Nationalisation in face of the success of the Post Office, the Canadian State Railways, the New Zealand State-owned Insurance, the State lines of Denmark, Sweden, and Belgium, in addition to scores of other successfully nationalised concerns, must be presuming upon an ignorance that we hope has long since been dispelled.

The Premier himself is concerned with a business that has written off £3,786,433 out of a capital of £8,000,000. Vickers, of Sheffield, have written down their capital because of the failure of private control; the same thing is taking place in other iron and steel concerns and in the cotton industry; whilst the Post Office is showing a profit of millions!

We in the co-operative movement, who have advocated and practised social ownership for the last eighty years, can point to success in almost everything where private capitalism is now showing failure. The fact is that Nationalisation and communal ownership in the form of co-operation are far too successful, and Mr. Baldwin need not have left the City of Manchester to discover this. A movement controlled by working men, with an annual trade of £500,000,000, paying substantial returns, depreciating substantially, and putting by reserves for future developments, has its headquarters not many yards from where the Premier was speaking. But in spite of these facts, now obvious to millions of people, all the Premier can say after having totally failed to solve the unemployment problem, revive industry, or improve our international relationship, is that socialism, communal ownership, is a failure, and capitalism a success.

We only hope opposition that that constituted in the Premier's speech at the next general election, in which case we are convinced that whoever else is misled by the Premier's constructiveist statements, co-operators will not be far they have demonstrated beyond doubt that whilst capitalism has failed co-operation in all forms has proved of itself to be the only sane system of industry calculated to serve the needs of the people.

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

Help for the Miners.

The Hillsborough Men's Guild Concert, on behalf of the Miners' Relief Fund, realised a total of £14,100, the whole of the amount was forwarded to the Miners' Association of Great Britain. The function was held at the Institute on Friday, February 19th. Mr. Barron's band and the orchestra, who gave an excellent entertainment, all gave their services free. The printing and advertising, as well as the use of the Institute, was also provided gratis, so that the total receipts were given to the miners without any deductions whatever.

Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., in moving a hearty vote of thanks to the artists and all who had contributed to the effort, congratulated the guild on the success of the affair, and mentioned, incidentally, that he (Mr. Alexander) had been appointed a member of the Lord Mayor's Mansion House Fund for the relief of distress in the mining areas. Mr. Ballard (Co-operative Party organiser), in seconding a vote of thanks, said they were looking forward to the time when charitable efforts of this kind would be unnecessary. What the miners wanted primarily was justice, in the meantime, the best he could do was to relieve the fallen by the way.

Attercliffe Co-operative Party.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held a well-attended meeting in the Berkeley-street public room on Thursday, February 7th, when Mrs. Holland was appointed president and Councillor W. G. Robinson secretary for 1926. Attercliffe Ward secretary, Mr. G. Lengley; Darvall Ward secretary, Mr. Marbury. The new Tinsley Ward is to appoint a secretary at the meeting to be convened shortly. Mrs. Sheldon and Mrs. Edwards were appointed as representatives on the central executive committee.

Councillor E. S. Nicholson, J.P., gave an excellent report of City Council work, and Councillor W. G. Robinson supplemented this with interesting detail of committee work, drawing attention to the inadequate car service between Firth Park and Attercliffe. Arising from the estates committee minutes, Councillor Robinson mentions his work in connection with the contracts for fifty-two parlour-type houses, and showed the necessity for close supervision of work of this kind, as the committee had found it necessary to spend £125 in repairing six houses which had only been built twelve months ago. Councillor Robinson's action in this connection was endorsed by those present.

Councillor Nicholson congratulated the section on the fine result in the November municipal elections. Messrs James Ward, Green, Kenzie, and Barringer gave brief reports of the guardian work, with special reference to the institutional training success for the able-bodied unemployed. Good discussions followed each of the reports, all present showing a keen interest in the detailed work of the council and guardian representatives.

Ecclesfield Labour Party.

The monthly meeting of the Ecclesfield Labour Party will be held in the council room on Thursday, March 21st,

at 6-45 p.m. We understand that the parish councillors will be present and will be pleased to welcome members and friends, to give reports, and to answer any questions on their work. The Ecclesfield Women's Section of the Labour Party is progressing rapidly. The women are now holding fortnightly meetings on Thursday evenings. The secretary, Mrs. E. Higgins, of 85, The Common, will be pleased to hear from anyone desirous of helping in the work. It is the object of the section to join and prepare for the election, in which the women electors will be the deciding factor.

Walkley Labour Councillors.

The Labour councillors of the Walkley Ward have been pressing the tramways committee for a better type of car on the Walkley route. They have taken this matter up at every one of the last four council meetings, and have secured a definite promise that the work of alteration on the route will be commenced in April. The cost for same is estimated at £2,100, but the Walkley representatives contend that this development is less overdue.

The councillors have also drawn the attention of the improvements committee to the unsatisfactory nature of the convenience at Walkley car termini, and the improvements committee is awaiting the permission of the Ministry of Health to acquire land for the erection of a more suitable place.

These and many other matters which concern the Walkley residents are dealt with at the public meeting held at the Labour Hall, Sherwood, on the first Wednesday in the month, at 8 p.m. All Walkley residents are cordially invited. Councillors Holland, Skelton, and Laing will welcome questions and suggestions to enable them to represent the wishes of Walkley electors to the powers that be.

Steel and Tariffs.

Mr. John Baker, M.P., addressed a large audience at the Wytheville Hall, Channing-street, on the subject of "Safeguarding of Iron and Steel." For an hour Mr. Baker kept his audience interested whilst he gave figures which showed convincingly that the policy of safeguarding would be detrimental to the best interests of the worker and to the country generally. He showed over a period of years that tariff barriers of all kinds which tended to prevent imports invariably had the effect of lessening employment in this country.

It will be remembered that Mr. Baker speaks with thirty years' practical experience as a trade union officer in the Iron and Steel Confederation. He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Insurance, and a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, and editor of the "Iron and Steel" Confederation journal, "Men and Steel."

Mr. James Gill presided, and so convinced was Mr. Baker's facts and figures that no questions were asked, although ample opportunity was given. Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., attended the meeting later in the evening, and spoke of the Labour Party in the Labour policy for the coming election.

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from the "Co-operative News."

RUSSO-BRITISH CO-OPERATIVE TRADE IN 1928.

BY N. BAROU (Director of the Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd.)

TRADE between Soviet co-operative organisations and the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies continued to develop during the year 1928. This fact is of especial importance in view of the steps now being taken by the International Co-operative Wholesale Society, after much preparation, to organise a central agency in London. That there is a great possibility behind international co-operative trade is clearly shown by the history of Russo-British co-operative trade, especially when account is taken of the particular economic circumstances which confine it within somewhat narrow limits. For the British organisations are interested in only one line of Russian export, namely, in edible produce such as grain, butter, eggs and bacon. Further, because of Russia's more pressing need for machinery and raw materials, the Soviet co-operatives can purchase from Great Britain only a limited class of goods, such as tea, coffee, herrings, rice, manufactured goods, twine, and metals. In spite of these limitations, however, trade between British and Russian co-operative organisations is increasing rapidly.

Three of the agencies in this country of Soviet co-operative organisations are engaged in trade with the English C.W.S.: Centrosoyuz (England) Ltd., the agents of the Union of Russian Consumers' Societies; Selsoyuz Ltd., the agents of the Union of Russian Agricultural Co-operatives, and Ukrainian Co-operatives Ltd., who represent the various Ukrainian co-operative organisations. Of these, in respect of purchases from the C.W.S., Centrosoyuz (England) occupies the first place. It renewed its trading relations with the C.W.S. in 1922, and since then it has bought from it goods to the following amounts—

	1922-27	1928.
Ten	1,245,157	989,798
Herrings.....	630,128	51,092
Spices	78,901	24,092
Coffee and Cocoa.....	8,672	32,880
Rice	82,958	27,044
Manufactured Goods	92,608	—
Copra.....	23,573	41,611
Metals.....	—	135,730
Sundry Goods	6,344	6,884
	2,176,016	920,331

The division of the total purchases of Centrosoyuz (England) between co-operative and other sources was as follows:—

Percentage of purchases from:—

	1922-27	1928.
Co-operative Sources.....	49	52
Other Sources.....	51	48

It will be seen from this table that Centrosoyuz (England) is now buying more than half its requirements through co-operative channels.

During the past year there has also been a considerable increase in C.W.S. sales to Selsoyuz Ltd., the total for 1928 being more than 60 per cent. greater than that for the previous six years put together. The total purchases of Soviet co-operative organisations from the English C.W.S. have been as follows:—

	1922-27	1928.
Purchases by:—	£	£
Centrosoyuz.....	2,170,015	920,331
Selsoyuz.....	98,508	160,992
Ukrainians.....	83,457	1,211

Thus the Soviet purchases for 1928 are no less than 46 per cent. of the purchases for the previous six years combined.

The English C.W.S. is also an important buyer of Russian co-operative products. The following table shows its purchases from the Soviet organisations in 1928 and 1927:—

	1927-27.	1928.
Purchases from:—	£	£
Centrosoyuz.....	240,703	1,172
Selsoyuz.....	978,209	353,187
Ukrainians.....	24,562	49,917

1,749,474. 301,276

The main commodity purchased was better, of which the English C.W.S. have bought 180,000 barrels in the last five years. Recently also Ukrainian bacon has been in good demand from British co-operative organisations.

These figures show that, despite the difficulties which at present hamper trade between this country and Russia, and despite also the fact that in her present circumstances Russia's purchases abroad must be concentrated mainly on machinery and on raw

[Continued at foot of next column.]

DEATH OF MR. TOM SHAW, J.P.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Tom Shaw, J.P., who passed away on Tuesday, February 26th. Mr. Shaw was the G.O.M. of the Sheffield Labour Movement. Born 1849, he has been a member of the Typographical Association for nearly fifty years. For ten years he was chairman of the Sheffield branch, and for several years a member of the national executive of that body, and on resigning his official position was presented with an illuminated address in recognition of his fine service to the Association.



THE LATE MR. TOM SHAW, J.P.

An Early Pioneer.

In 1880, Mr. Shaw was one of the little group who formed a branch of the Constitutional Rights Association in this city. Before there was any politi-

[Continued from previous column.]

materials for industry, with neither of which are the co-operative movements of Britain and Russia especially concerned, nevertheless trade between the two co-operative movements is steadily developing on satisfactory lines, and had reached for the last six years nearly £5,000,000. Actually, the inter-co-operative trade between the two countries is many times greater than the international trade between any other two consumers' co-operative movements in the world.

cal Labour Party, Shaw was leading the fight to secure the right of the late Charles Bradlaugh to sit in the House of Commons. The C.R.A. was carrying on a very active campaign in Sheffield at this time.

Mr. Shaw was largely responsible for the starting of the Radical Club in Farnside-square—a club which accomplished a fine work quite independent of the Tory and Liberal aid.

At the re-organisation of seats in 1883, the club endeavoured to secure the right to run a Parliamentary candidate for Attercliffe; they were unsuccessful, but managed to put a Labour candidate in the field in the Central Division. Mr. Mirving Lennox Hawkes, a leader-writer for a number of journals run by Mr. Storey, M.P., was the main pillar of the Liberal candidate, and Howard Vincent the Conservative. This fight was the first Parliamentary contest with a Labour candidate in the city.

Sheffield J.L.P.

Shaw was a member of the J.L.P. at its very inception; chairman of the Sheffield branch, and a member of the N.C.C. during Sir Hardie's régime. He represented the Sheffield section at the London, Birmingham, and Nottingham conferences. Mr. Shaw controlled Attercliffe unsuccessfully in 1898, and was subsequently elected councillor for Brightside in 1900. He retained the seat for over seven years. He was appointed to the magistratal bench in 1906.

Early Housing Campaign.

Perhaps Mr. Shaw's most useful contribution to our civic life has been his work on housing. He was a member of the National Housing and Town-Planning Council. He was very largely responsible for the city's housing estate at Vincomak, and was enthusiastic for the purchase of the land at High Stairs, not merely because he was on the Council at this time, but because he was striving up to his opinion night after night by a series of lantern lectures in all parts of Sheffield and district. Shaw would throw on the estate at Vincomak, and kept dilapidated slum at one moment, and at the next a beautiful mansion or some section of the Bourneville Estate, stem which he would point out to a man with telling effect. Sometimes the humble slum dwelling of "Hearty Dobb" would be given, in striking contrast to a great mansion owned by a person who probably owned two or three other mansions. In this way the people were stirred to demand better housing facilities. Like many other worthy causes, the play was havoc with town planning and housing schemes. But there is no doubt that Tom Shaw had done much to educate the people of Sheffield to a sense of shame at the wretched housing conditions prevailing.

A Staunch Co-operator.

There was no stauncher co-operation in the city than our friend Shaw. He was a member of the Sheffield Society before the amalgamation with the Ecclesall Society. His membership was continuous from 1880 onwards. For some years he was a member of the Executive of the Sheffield Co-operative Party, a member of the Sheffield Trades and Labour Council Executive, he was the first president of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers, and remembered many happy outings with Bert Ward and his comrades.

Through years of hard work and many vicissitudes Shaw kept the democratic flag flying. He was in his eightieth year, but young in spirit to the last.

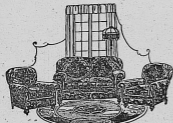
The Executive of the Sheffield Co-operative Party heard of Mr. Shaw's death with very deep regret, and after rising in silence as a tribute to his memory, instructed the secretary to write a letter of condolence to the relatives.

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

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