



THE CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR GOVERNMENT GETS TO BUSINESS.

SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE BEING DONE.

SEVERAL useful and valuable Acts of Parliament have already been passed, and a number of others are in course of preparation, to be introduced when Parliament reassembles.

Measures Already Passed Into Law.

Among the measures that have already been passed into law are three that have an outstanding and immediate effect upon the welfare of the people.

The first is the Housing (Revision of Contributions) Act, which cancels the late Tory Government's proposed reduction of the Wheatley Housing Subsidy, and thus allows local authorities to proceed uninterrupted with a more intensive programme for the building of houses to R.E.T.

The second is the Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act, which authorises State assistance for up to £50,000,000 worth of public utility and development work in this country with a view to the reduction of unemployment.

The third is the Colonial Development Act, which establishes a fund, by Exchange Grants, for paying interest on loans raised for development works in the Colonies, and thereby providing orders for British factories for material and machinery, &c.

More Bills that the Government is Preparing.

Among other Bills that the Labour Government is now engaged in preparing, which it will pass into law without delay, are the following:—

A Pensions Bill to abolish certain anomalies under the existing Contributory Pensions Act, and thus give fair treatment to old people and widows who are at present suffering hardship.

A Housing Bill to promote an extensive policy of slum clearance and to make further provision for the erection of more houses TO-LET in town and country districts.

"THE OBSERVER" AND THE SHEFFIELD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION SUGGESTED.

is the leading article of "The Observer" on Sunday, September 21st, the following appeared:—"As present conditions give thanks nationally for triumphs over one another in battle. We would have them give thanks internationally for their common services to peace. There is room in the calendar of Western civilization for a day set apart, to be its political aspirations what Christmas Day is to its spiritual activities." And again in its special article:—"We suggested a new festival: a world's peace day to be simultaneously celebrated on the same date by all nations. This festival might be so managed as to have a profound and lasting effect upon human imagination, and especially in the manner most needed for the minds of the young."

A Rent Restrictions Bill to continue the protection which tenants of working-class houses now enjoy—and which would normally expire this year under the existing legislation.

A Trade Union Bill to counteract the partisan attitude made on the organized workers and their unions by the Tory Government's Trade Unions Act of 1913. A Factory Bill to make life in the factory safer and healthier.

Progress in Other Spheres.

Meanwhile, by negotiation and administration, the Government is pressing forward with all possible speed a number of other desirable reforms.

Humanising Unemployment Insurance.

Several steps have been taken to humanise the administration of the unemployment insurance system. Provision has been made for ensuring that unemployed men and women will not in future be unjustly classified as "not genuinely seeking work," and thus deprived of their claim to benefit. The Insurance Fund has been supplemented by an additional £3,500,000 a year. Further facilities are to be set up for training the unemployed, and better accommodation at the Exchanges is to be provided, so that men and women will not be compelled to queue up in the open in wintery weather, as has often been the case hitherto. Meanwhile, the Government is considering the introduction of comprehensive legislation to improve the whole Unemployment Insurance scheme.

Raising the School-Leaving Age.

The Government has announced its intention to raise the school-leaving age to fifteen, with effect from April 1st, 1921—but with effect from the 1st of 1921. At which time it is expected that all the necessary arrangements will have been completed—and, in the meantime, consideration is being given to the form and amount of the maintenance allowances that are to be granted in respect of the children continuing at school.

Our readers will remember that the Sheffield Education Committee, on a proposition of Councillor Barton, has already set the example in this connection, and established an international peace celebration in the schools of this city. This year it was held on the third day of the month of July. No doubt if Mr. Garvin's suggestion is carried out at Sheffield day may be present administration it is a tribute to the present administration that in the direction of world-wide peace and brotherhood.

CO-OPERATION is based on the principles of Christianity, and we never find any religion opposing to individuals to save their own selfish ends.

The Co-operative movement is a business based upon service; in the industry which was destroyed and building of it nothing was creative and its every action was creative and beneficial.

Progress Towards Disarmament.

By his conversations and negotiations with General Daves, the U.S. ambassador, Mr. Ramsey MacDonald is advancing rapidly the cause of international disarmament, and has accelerated this considerably by reducing the rate of Great Britain's naval shipbuilding—a gesture to which America has immediately responded by slowing down her shipbuilding in return. Meanwhile, steps are being taken to provide employment for large numbers of naval dockyard workers who would otherwise be thrown out of employment.

Repairs—A Square Deal for

Britain. While previous British Governments have almost invariably surrendered the rights of Britain when international conferences have been held for the purpose of clearing up the financial aftermath of the war, the present British Government, through its representative, Mr. Philip Snowden, is making a firm and determined stand for Britain's rights—a stand that has evoked the unstinted admiration of the whole British Empire. No matter what angle of view be taken, the facts show that with the Labour Government in office, the affairs of the nation are in very capable hands indeed.

TRADE ON THE WAY TO IMPROVEMENT.

BIG INCREASE IN EXPORTS.

This official returns show that during the month of July the trade of a Great Britain, in the export trade of Great Britain.

Compared with the previous month, exports rose by over 33 per cent., and compared with July of the previous year, the increase was in the region of 9 per cent.

The total exports for the month were valued at £66,520,000, an increase of £5,624,000 over the corresponding month of the previous year.

Some of the main increases were as follows:—

Article	Increase in Month's Exports as compared with July of Previous Year.
Cotton Yarns and Manufactures	705,000
Wool and Worsted	120,000
Other Textiles	388,000
Machinery	499,000
Motor Vehicles, &c.	282,000
Other Vehicles	247,000
Iron and Steel	820,000
Chemicals, Dyes, &c.	186,000
Electrical Goods	242,000
Putty, Glass, &c.	120,000

Expressed in quantities, some of the main increases were:—

Article	Increase in Month's Exports as compared with July of Previous Year.
Coal	1,685,000 tons.
Iron and Steel	43,000 tons.
Cotton Yarn	3,656,000 lbs.
Cotton Piece Goods	16,771,000 sq. yds.
Worsted Tissues	261,000 sq. yds.
Linted Piece Goods	2,356,000 sq. yds.
Paper and Card-board	136,000 cwts.

The exports of coal to France, U.S.A., and South America all went up. Exports of pig iron to France and Belgium ports of pig iron to France and Belgium were twice as much as a year ago, and the exports of steel plates to those countries also showed an increase. Greece and Turkey each took three times as much in the way of textile piece goods as in July 1918, while the exports of these to the Netherlands and Belgium were also larger.

On the whole, it looks as though British industry is in for better times, and the Government proposes to do all it can to encourage and assist that tendency.

THE TOLL OF INDUSTRY

OVER 150,000 ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES LAST YEAR.

The annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1918 shows that during that year 154,319 accidents were reported, including 953 fatalities.

An analysis of the causes of the accidents is as follows:—

Cause	No. of Accidents.
Steam, Gas, and other engines	129
Electric Motors (excluding Electric Shock)	15
Shafting	208
Belts, Ropes, Gearing, Pulleys, &c.	1,115
Lifting Machinery	3,385
Lathes	2,313
Milling Machinery	523
Power Presses	488
Other Machine Tools for Metal Working	2,405
Woodworking Machinery	3,295
Rollers of Calendars, &c.	429
Other Power-Driven Machinery	15,806
Railway Locomotives and Rolling Stock	1,104
Other Vehicles	1,230
Electricity	427
Explosions	966
Fires	360
Gassing	167
Molten Metal	8,249
Lifting Machinery, not moved by Mechanical Power	1,009
Other Machinery, not moved by Mechanical Power	1,788
Use of Hand Tools	15,707
Struck by Falling Body	18,411
Persons Falling	15,343
Stepping on or striking against Objects	11,062
Handling Goods or Articles in Manufacturing or Carrying Processes	34,694
Other Causes	11,101

During the year 670 cases of industrial poisoning were also reported.

These figures emphasise the necessity for the new Factory Bill which the Labour Government proposes to introduce—some of the main features of which will be provisions for the enforcement of more stringent safety precautions in factories and workshops.

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AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

WORK FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

BY COUNCILLOR A. BARTON.

THE monthly meeting of the City Council took place on August 7th.

WATER—

Alderman Womersley spoke of the improvement shown by the Water Department. There had been an increase of income of £10,469, while the expenditure had only increased £1,811. Considering the severe frost which had caused so much damage, this was a gratifying result. There was a prospect of a surplus of £43,593, but this will be necessary in view of the very heavy charges due to Ewden, which will arrive next year.

The drought had been the most severe in the history of the department, yet the municipality had been able to meet all needs without inconvenience—another tribute to municipal enterprise. The appeal to the public had resulted in the saving of water to the extent of 2,250,000 gallons a day; but in spite of the recent rains, care should still be taken, as the water in the reservoirs had been the lowest for twenty-four years.

It is also to the credit of municipal or public ownership that Sheffield has, and is, supplying Barnsley with a large quantity of water without attempting to make a profit out of the necessities of its neighbours.

—AND BEER.

Councillor W. Bennett called attention to the large amount spent on beer at Ewden. Alderman Womersley suitably replied; but it may interest readers to know that the carboys of the breweries in the country, that all kinds of drinks are supplied; that the beer is tested as to quality; that there has never been a single case of drunkenness; and that the profits have built the Church and helped to pay the minister. Ewden village is a beautiful example of the different way in which workers are treated by private contractors and by municipal authorities.

COMPENSATION WATER IS IT JUSTIFIED?

In reply to a question, Alderman Womersley pointed out that the Corporation was under legal obligation to supply compensation water to the river for industrial purposes. This amount was far in excess of what is required, and was fitted a good many years ago. The riparian owners, as they are termed, insist on their pound of flesh to the detriment of the community. Representations had been made to the Ministry of Health. Councillor Turner and Alderman Fenton both urged the need of stronger pressure in order to alter the present state of affairs.

WILL TRAM FARES COME DOWN?

Councillor Turner voiced a general feeling when he asked if in view of the large profit on trams and buses this year (£89,000) there was any likelihood of a reduction of fares. Alderman Beardsley said they had many commitments, but as soon as they felt it practicable a reduction would take place.

THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT SCORES AGAIN.

So brilliantly successful is our Printing Department that our opponents are continually seeking to find a loophole whenever they can take a pot-shot at it. Councillor Brought thought he had got one. He stated that a private firm had a contract for the supply of 10,000 copies of a time-table and guide for the trams and buses, at a cost of sixty guineas per annum. He wanted to know whether the Honorary Controller had approached the firm and made a bargain that they could retain the contract if they shared it with the Corporation. Also, if the commission of the man running the guide had been cut down.

Alderman Watkins replied that the Printing Department had suggested a payment of thirty-six guineas instead

of sixty guineas, thus making a considerable saving to the Corporation. The question of commission was a matter for the firm.

CO-ORDINATING THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL.

For a number of years the Highway and Improvement Departments have overlapped. Each has a separate staff of surveyors, and friction is difficult to avoid. In addition to this, the Estates Department has grown so much that it controls estates the size of a small town (so less than 5,000 houses), and it has no adequate supervision. A special committee therefore recommended that Mr. E. Partington (the improvement surveyor) be appointed to the position of estates surveyor, at a salary of £5,000 a year. That the care of the Town Hall and public monuments be handed over to the Estates Committee; and street improvements, town planning, and civic survey to the Highway and Sewerage Committee; and the Improvement Committee be abolished. Mr. Partington will continue to be responsible for all negotiations for purchases of lands by the Corporation. The City Treasurer will still collect rents for the Corporation houses, &c. The building surveyor will be attached to the City Engineer and Surveyors Department.

There was a fierce discussion on an amendment by Alderman Fenton. Objection was made that too much concentration impaired efficiency, and that it left everything to the discretion of Councillors Rowlinson, Ashby, and Alderman Watkins. Councillor Harold Jackson went one further, and said it meant a dictatorship of Councillor Rowlinson. The idea is as Philip Snowden said of something else, "grotesque and ridiculous." If ever there was a really democratic party it is the Labour one. But our opponents had to fall back on something, and, of course, they were defeated by 29 to 17 votes.

WORK FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

In response to the request of the Minister for Unemployment, the Finance Committee had prepared a plan of schemes for work which could be put in hand at once, provided substantial help could be obtained from the Government. The schemes submitted totalled £867,535. Of this the Burbage Water works scheme came to £650,000. This works scheme will not be required for fourteen years, but if the Government will accept responsibility for 50 per cent of the cost for the first fifteen years, it is suggested the work could be put in hand at once, and find continuous work for 400 men.

The other works included street works and road widenings, sewerage works, £10,000 for recreation grounds, and £15,000 for a lighting depot.

It was agreed the committee should press upon the Government the special claims of Sheffield as an area hard hit by unemployment due to the immigration of workers during the war.

As Councillor Rowlinson explained, this was only a first instalment of the proposals, and would be increased if the response of the Government was at all favourable. It is to be hoped that the Government can be made to realize that the special circumstances of towns in the position of Sheffield should receive special consideration.

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PROFITTEERING IN FOOD.

**FOOD COUNCIL LACKS POWERS.
CO-OPERATIVE REMEDY.**

"LIKE a drowned man sending up an occasional bubble to the surface, the Food Council, which Mr. Baldwin's Government in 1925 deprived of the powers necessary for usefulness, sends every now and then a report or a correspondence to the Press to show how good its intentions are."
"Daily Chronicle," October 30th, 1928.

Food Council Futility.

Three items of outstanding importance to every working class household have followed in rapid succession.

1. Rise in price of bread.
2. MEK increased to winter prices one month before stipulated time.
3. Extravagant profits alleged in retail meat trade.

The Food Council has challenged each item without effect. In the case of milk the President of the Board of Trade (Mr. William Graham) appealed for a month's modification in price, with the same lack of success.

This position of stalemate must be remedied and steps taken to ensure that alleged unfair prices are fully investigated and profiteering definitely penalised.

The Flour Controversy and Bread Prices.

The price of flour determines the price of the loaf. Under a sliding scale arrangement between the Food Council and the trade, it was agreed that when flour stood at 3/6 per sack of 280 lbs. the quarter loaf should be sold at 8d., and for each fluctuation of 4s. per sack the price of the quarter loaf should rise or fall by a halfpenny.

Early in August the Food Council reported that in May last it found:—

(a) The official price of flour published by the London Flour Millers' Association exceeded the actual price paid.

(b) For some time the price of bread could have been reduced by a halfpenny per loaf if the standard upon which price was based had been the actual cost of flour.

When attention was drawn by the Food Council to the position, the Flour Millers' Association announced that the official price had become unnecessary and even undesirable, and it had accordingly been decided to discontinue the consideration and publication of any price.

Vested Interests Protected.

This incident was not exceptional. In February, 1927, the Food Council had sent a letter to the London Master Bakers' and Confectioners' Protection Society drawing attention to the difference in prices as fixed by that society and those considered fair by the Food Council. It pointed out that during the year preceding November 29th, 1925, the society allowed sixty days to elapse before making decreases in price due under the scale, and thirty-three days before making increases, with the result that for nearly one month in twelve the price of bread charged by the members was in excess of the maximum scale. To this, the secretary of the society replied that they must "reserve the right to make the necessary changes in price as and when all the circumstances of the case are suitable to the best interests of the trade and public." The interests of the trade have been consistently secured. Protection of the public is now demanded.

Milkmen Charge Too Much.

Another report of the Food Council deals with the milk trade. It pointed out that:

There is no justification for a retail price being charged in London during the year 1928-29 in excess of 7d. per quart for seven months and 6d. per quart for five months.

The increase in price was made in spite of the appeal of the President of the Board of Trade men that prices

"Will be higher than any that have been in force since 1924-25"

distributor will increase his margin of gross profit by nearly one halfpenny a gallon over what he obtained in 1925-26. Net profits of private firms were 34.1 per cent. in 1926 and 40.7 per cent. in 1927. The Food Council reported:—
"It has not been possible to accept at their face value all the accounts sent in."
"There is evident harmony of view between the flour millers and the milk vendors."

Both attempted to mislead the Food Council in regard to their finances. In both cases it is the customer who pays.

Butchers' Business Booming.

Once more the Food Council comes forward with its repeated charge of profiteering:—

"The financial position of retail butchers has not only improved since before the war, but has improved out of proportion with the increase in the general cost of living."

A table gives incomes earned by butchers in England and Wales, on a given quantity of meat, compared with such incomes if the general increase in cost of living:—

	1922.	1924.	1926-27.
£	£	£	£
(a) Actual income	586.	578.	622
(b) Income adjusted to cost of living	393.	376.	366

The following reductions in meat prices might have been made in October last and still have left a margin of 20 per cent. gross profit on cost:—

Per lb.	Argentine Beef	1d. to 1 1/2d.
	Scottish Beef	1d. to 8d.
	English Mutton	2 1/2d. to 3d.
	English Beef	2 1/2d. to 3d.

The National Federation of Meat Traders' Association informed the Royal Commission on Food Prices in February, 1925, that the retailing of meat was done per cent. on cost (or 10 to 15 per cent. on turnover), but the report points out that this figure is constantly exceeded, and that in the second week in September 1925, there was a gross margin of 60.9 per cent. on cost (7.7 per cent. on turnover).

Argentine beef is to a very large extent relied upon by the poorer consumer, to whom the reduction of 2d. to 2 1/2d. per lb. is a matter of importance.

For twenty-six weeks in the period of January to October, 1926, the gross profit on Argentine beef was 50 per cent., and in one week the figures rose to over 70 per cent.

There is no wonder that:—
Up to 1927-28 there was a progressive increase in the incomes of retail butchers.

Protect the Public.

But while the Food Council has no power to remedy the evil, its reports indicate the road whereupon a remedy may be found. In the case both of meat and milk, the profits of the co-operative societies, which go back to the customer in the form of dividends, are higher than the profits shown by private traders and limited companies. If the accounts are to be taken at their face value, co-operation is not only more profitable to the co-operator, but it is a better business proposition, in that it gives a higher return on the capital invested. If there are hidden reserves behind the private figures, the case is even stronger in favour of a concern where the profits made return to the purchaser. BREAD, MILK, and MEAT are the necessities of life. They must be removed from the control of the profiteer.

THERE were never more co-operators than there are to-day. But there will be to-morrow.

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JUNIOR PARTY NOTES

OUTSTANDING amongst our activities during the summer months was the week-end school held at "Birchfield" in July.

Crick and tennis were indulged in during the afternoon, whilst in the evening we enjoyed dancing and community singing.

We were fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. J. H. Bingham as lecturer, and his masterly handling of the subject, "Rationalisation," was greatly appreciated, and some very fine tributes were paid to him at the close by the Indian students and other visitors staying there, and who, by the way, joined in all our activities, to our mutual enjoyment.

The committee have also been at work, and as a result our worthy secretary has been able to arrange a programme that should appeal to all, including as it does several excellent speakers, debates, and papers by members, and three series of lectures by Mr. J. H. Bingham, each consisting of four lectures on the following subjects: Literary, Financial, Economic.

Our membership is open to all young people between the ages of eighteen and thirty, and we heartily invite new members. The meetings will be held at the Church House, St. James'-row, commencing on Wednesday, October 2nd, at 7.30 p.m., and will continue weekly until the end of March.

The Secretary, 53, Fox-road, or Mr. A. Ballard, 17, Bank-street, will be pleased to supply any further particulars.

OCTOBER PROGRAMME.

- Oct. 2nd.—"The Limit," Mr. J. H. Bingham.
- " 9th.—"The Race Problem," Rev. H. Cecil.
- " 16th.—"How Money Makes the Wheel Go Round," Mr. J. H. Bingham.
- " 23rd.—"Parliament and Democratic Government," Mr. Evison.
- " 30th.—No meeting (Municipal Elections).

ESPERANTISTS AGAIN.

THE increasing numbers of our readers interested in the international language should make a point of visiting the exhibition which the local Esperantists are arranging at the W.E.A. House, Western Bank, on the evenings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 12th, 13th, and 14th. Admission is free, and the friends in charge will be glad to answer questions, give advice, and show recent books and developments. If you can't come, send your friends!

In Other Words.

The class had been asked to retell in their own words the story of Oliver Twist's taking for more, and too little gold had written "In the kitchen stood a statue of a policeman." "Where did you get that idea from?" The child replied: "Isn't that what you said, ma'am?" "No," she said the teacher, "I said that in the kitchen there stood a statue copper."

CO-OPERATION AND MILK.

THERE is every indication that the co-operative movement is attempting the organisation of its milk service on up-to-date lines, in order to uphold the rights of the consumer. It will be remembered that Congress demanded that the movement should speak with one authoritative voice in milk negotiations, and the Co-operative Union has now succeeded in bringing together the various milk interests of the movement. There still remains the formulation of a national co-operative milk scheme to ensure complete success in our milk industry.

Action on our part is desperately urgent, for the National Farmers' Union and the National Dairywomen's Federation have together evolved a National Milk Scheme, primarily for the benefit of their own members, and the parties concerned hope to have sufficient majority in favour of this scheme to warrant its establishment throughout the country.

The scheme, based on the policy propounded by William Price, attracts farmers by offering them a certain market for all their milk at a flat-rate, and consols the combines and creameries by the creation of a pool to subsidise the manufacture of condensed milk, cheese, dried milk, &c.

On the other hand, the consumer is simply dismissed with a fixed price for his milk, and, presumably, the most complaint would be an account of co-operative societies paying dividend on milk, and so virtually underselling.

In other words, the private trade combines could then establish such a scheme over the whole country, would enjoy a sort of P.A.T.A. privilege. Many societies are anxiously waiting to know the real attitude of the movement to this scheme.

A National Milk Committee for the co-operative movement has now been established, containing representatives of the Co-operative Union, the C.W.S., the Milk Federation, and the London Joint Committee.

This national committee has definitely pronounced against the scheme put forward by the N.F.U. and dairymen, particularly objecting to the following principles of the scheme:—

- (1) The fixing of retail prices for milk.
- (2) The provision of a pool to subsidise private manufacturers of milk products.
- (3) The possibility of variations to suit the promoters in what purports to be a national scheme; and
- (4) The total disregard of the interests of the consumer.

The united voice of the co-operative movement has to defend the interests of 6,000,000 consumers and their families, and on this account alone cannot accept this milk scheme.

What is more, the movement is holding a national conference to give the whole country our opinion. We must have uniformity of action on a matter of such importance, and members must see that societies support the true co-operative attitude solidly.

As with every one our part, there is no danger of becoming enmeshed with this latest attempt at monopoly by private trade.

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Hillsborough Party's Winter Programme.

The Hillsborough and Owlerton Co-operative Party have fixed up their winter programme of Monday evening meetings, socials, & amusements. The speakers who have promised to address these gatherings are Councillors Havant, Robinson, Skelton, Minshall, Marshall, and Longden, Aldermen Bancroft and Watkins. Play readings are being arranged by Mr. W. Marsden and a company of readers; programme in this connection includes plays by such writers as Galsworthy, Kettle Howard, A. A. Milne, and others. Each month a report of City Council work is to be given by one of the Council representatives. These meetings will be made public for the purpose of dealing with questions of civic interest.

In addition to the Monday evening meetings, which will be held in the guild-room, a series of monthly socials will be announced later. The opening social for the winter session will take place on September 24th, 7-30 p.m., when an excellent programme of music and dancing is being arranged. This gathering will be addressed by the Co-operative and Labour municipal candidates for Hillsborough and Owlerton. Admission by ticket, 6d.

Women's Section.

The Hillsborough Women's Section are holding their opening social for the Monday afternoon meetings on September 2nd. With over 200 members on their books and an excellent programme arranged for the 1931-30 season, they are looking forward to another successful period. Meetings are held every Monday afternoon, 2-30 p.m., and a cordial invitation is given to all co-operatives interested in the political aspect of the movement.

Neepsand Co-operative Anglers.

The Neepsand Co-operative Institute Angling Club chose a delightful venue, excellent weather, and good company for their first annual fishing match at Kirkstall on July 28th, when twenty-five women and twenty-nine men "angled" against each other with good-humoured enthusiasm; with the result that Mr. Sell, junr., won the men's match, whilst Mrs. Versna won the women's. The women beat the men in their catch by two-and-a-quarter ounces. Councillors Longden and Robinson accompanied the party.

Week-End School at "Birchfield."

- The week-end school, held under the auspices of the Brightside and Carbrook educational committee at "Birchfield," Hope, was of pronounced success so far as the lectures were concerned, but there were rather less students than has been the case on other week-end schools. Mr. Arnold Freeman, M.A., B.Sc., gave three lectures on "The World Situation," "The World in which We are Living," and "The World in which We are Living." Good discussions followed each lecture and appetites were whetted for future schools of the same type.

Co-operative Guilds and Social Services.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Guilds Federation have arranged to use the Cemetery-road guild-room as a depot on the occasion of the Flag Day for the Women's Social Work Movement, to be held on October 9th. Several of the women members have also volunteered to assist.

The same federation has also subscribed £2 to the Sheffield Cripples' Aid Association.

The Flag Day recently held in support of the Sheffield Council of Social Service realised £471 8s. 3d.

Co-operative Amalgamation Proposal.

The one-day school held at Castleton on August 23th attracted sixty-five students to hear Mr. A. Ballard lecture on "The Philosophic Basis of Consumers' Co-operation" and "The Place

of the Co-operative Movement in the New Social Order." The lecturer demonstrated that the Consumers' Co-operative Movement was not only the most democratic institution of the present day, but that it was the only real success in the history of democratic co-operation, having established itself under most difficult circumstances and developed to an amazing success in an environment entirely opposed to its principles. At the evening lecture Mr. Ballard outlined the development of a united society in Sheffield and other large towns. Any degree of competition, bonfire-like arguments, or such like artificial interferences with the development of co-operation was calculated to retard the growth of the movement and to lead to a misunderstanding in the minds of the people. He outlined economies in management, production, distribution, and even education that could be secured by a united society. He also advocated low and stabilised dividends, and low prices, with a view to meeting the keen competition of present-day trade. Good discussion followed each lecture. The lectures were organised under the auspices of the Brightside and Carbrook Guilds Federation. Mrs. Austin, the secretary, is to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements and accommodation.

FURTHER INCREASES.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL SOCIETY TOPS THE MILLION MARK.

The half-yearly report of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society just issued, shows that a surplus of £52,147 has been created by the mutual trade of the members; this during a period of severe unemployment in Sheffield, is a tribute to the business capacity of the management and to the loyalty of the membership, which is larger working class. The membership has increased during the year by 2,598, and now reaches the splendid total of 41,135.

After providing interest on members' share capital amounting to £8,576 9s. 7d. at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and substantial depreciation, the directors recommended a dividend on members' purchases of 1s. 8d. in the pound, amounting to £43,683 6s. 8d. It should be remembered that the payment of this enormous sum to the members is made after allocating substantial amounts for depreciation, and even adding to the reserves of the society.

No business organisation is in a sounder position than the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society. New developments are projected in the way of the dairy, extension of the Arcade premises, extension of the Duke-street premises, and the building of other branches. In short, the S. & E.—though well over the million mark in its annual trade—is still forging ahead.

DO YOU KNOW?
CAN YOU SAY?

- What we pay in taxes?
How wealth would divide equally?
How wages compare in buying power?
How the housing problem stands?
How unemployment has varied?
What are the figures of marriage and divorce?
What numbers enjoy higher education?
How co-operation is growing?
What unemployment costs?
How many people depend on relief?
What is spent on social services?
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THEY BURIED HIM AT SEA.

A TALE OF THE THE MIGHTY OCEAN.

BY RHYSS J. DAVIES, M.P.

He was a first-class steward on a first-class passenger liner between a South-eastern, Cherbourg, and New York, and he was popular with every member of the crew numbering well over 700 souls. He had been aboard the big old thing ever since she was built at Wallingford over twenty years ago; and he was liked by all. Men in blue suits with gold braid made the liner's course; they navigated her through rough and other weather. But he was only a steward. Scores of women with nice striped frocks and white caps attend to the wants of the female population; and that palace on the high seas; and the sea who was buried at sea on one of the first days of 1928 was popular with them, too; he was a gentleman, and a sailor, throughout. He had sailed on smaller ships on his day; but the fastest ship afloat had been almost his home for a decade.

He became ill with a fall disease while on her trip home from New York early in January, 1928, and he died when she was only two days out on the mighty ocean. Doctors, nurses, and officers rallied to his aid; but the hand of Death challenged them all, and he breathed his last on those ugly waves which cover four miles of deep and tempestuous water.

Passengers on board a great liner are not supposed to know all that happens; but gossip percolates through the kitchen, and you get all the news, good and bad, very quickly, whatever it may be. There is "The Atlantic Daily Mail," printed on board and issued every morning, but it tells nothing of strange happenings on board from time to time; they may create panic among the passengers. Whispers travelled very soon, however, that a steward in the first-class was dead, and that the funeral would take place at five o'clock. The news had been kept dark up to lunch time that very day. About 3.45 p.m. members of the crew began to gather round the end of the mighty vessel pondering her way through rough seas at the rate of twenty-six miles an hour. We had been fog-bound for a whole day before leaving New York harbour, so she must make up for lost time.

Not a Minute's Pause.

The engineers, down in the hold somewhere, worked like demons to keep her speed up, because every hour that she was late in arriving at port meant a colossal bill of cost to her owners. There were, for instance, over 2,000 passengers on board; and they had to be fed. Then the wages bill went up. So the huge propellers screwed and turned and churned the ocean as if the ship had mastered creation itself. True, she ground on occasions like a woman in fury, but she went on, and she carried a dead

man in her bosom. She is a wonderful boat, though she is old and tired. Male and female members of the crew for the body of the first-class steward. Four men brought in his body, and we had our heads in reverence. There was a young Jewess on the top deck who came to see the sight, all away from the first class. She pulled out a cigarette case, lit up, and pulled out a petrol lighter, and puff away as if she were in a cinema on Broadway, New York, or could be pardoned for her callousness; she was so young—unless her lip-sticks betrayed us.

Always with the body there came a priest, praying good in white. (There were always to be a priest on board every one of these great liners, by the way.) There is no time or thought for anti-nationalism on board ship; but there gathered that he was an American Presbyterian. He was obviously unaccustomed to his task because he turned to the captain several times to be assured he had read the right page of the book. It would seem that it was a Church of England book of worship and prayer.

Asleep in the Deep.

They placed the body on a flat piece of crude wood resting on trestles with the Union Jack covering it. The day was clear but cold. Waves passed round in whisps that the dead man lay a widow and two little ones behind him to mourn his loss. Why it did not embalm the body and bring it home was a puzzle to us all. But we presumed that the widows had been in a Jewish or Italian family, and all was settled to drop him in the waves. After several readings and a prayer by the priest they lifted the flat piece of wood on to the railings which ran over the deck, and let him slide down to eternity. The Union Jack was drawn back to the ship; the first-class steward dressed in plain seafaring went down in the foam created by the side of the ship to the reefing-place; and the first-class liner seemed to give a last groan as she left him in the cold about one thousand miles this side of New York harbour.

Years gathered; handshakes were out to wipe them; men and women of all nationalities sobbed awhile, because it was the first time they had ever seen a burial at sea. Swiss, Italian, Egyptian were on their way to settle some family affairs in their native lands; but they all felt the blow of the first-class steward who was buried at sea. The collection among the passengers for the widow ran up to nearly four figures; but they were counted in dollars. The atmosphere of the United States had not yet departed from the ship although her nose was then right ahead for Eddystone Lighthouse.

The Call of Home.

It is said that the sailor loves the sea so much that he prefers to be buried down deep in its bosom. It is not true; we asked several of the men and women aboard, old salts who had hardly been on land more than two days at a time for a quarter-of-a-century. And they all said that they would desire to die, when the last day comes, at home, and be buried for preference a good few feet deep in the soil of the homeland.

The sea is callous and cold. It makes big ships groan in agony; it has a cruel smaller craft to spin; and its cruel sometimes catch strong men napping on deck and take them away as if for ransom on the day of the resurrection.

So they buried him at sea; the first-class steward on board a first-class liner; the fastest ship afloat. But down he went, that first-class man, to be the sport of those great waves of the sea, and for men must work and women must weep.

This co-operative movement has had a wide experience and may serve its members better than any other form of organisation.

IS WALKLEY WARD THE CINDERELLA OF THE SUBURBS?

In the correspondence column of the "Sheffield Mail," a strongly-worded letter has appeared, asking that the above question should be answered in the affirmative. At once, as one of the ward's representatives on the City Council, I took steps to examine how far this was true. Whilst it is true South-road has not been widened or some other big undertakings, there has been considerable work done during the past two years. Whilst it is true South-road has not been widened or some other big undertakings, there has been considerable work done during the past two years. Whilst it is true South-road has not been widened or some other big undertakings, there has been considerable work done during the past two years.

Highways.

First, I have the details of forty-nine roads or streets in the Walkley Ward where, during the last two years, repairs have cost the city over £3,600. This item does not include the taking off the corner at South-road terminus.

Library.

Which reference reminds me of the library there, where I am informed we have spent over £65 in adding new books or replacing others. The new ones added is 3,023, and replaced 799, making a total of 3,822 books.

Trams.

Whilst still at the same terminus I want to draw attention to the efforts put forward in connection with the cars and fares. Taking the question of cars first, it has cost £9,399 to alter the tramway

track to enable larger cars to be operated on the route. In spite of this we have still drawn attention to the length and fare for the route, and I have a reply from the general manager wherein he states, "Your letter has been laid before the Tramways and Motors Committee, and deferred pending the consideration of the whole question." Dare we hope?

Parks.

The amenities of the ward, so far as the Bolchill Recreation Ground is concerned, has incurred expenditure totalling over £1,627, with income from tennis and bowls of £533. The net cost to the rates, excluding any service of debt, is £1,093.

Lighting.

Since the policy of lighting of courts was commenced, under the present scheme, June, 1927, there have been ten courts in the ward lighted. In addition, there have been twenty-one additional lamps erected in the ward.

To illustrate the efforts of this section of the Corporation, I may add as a point of general interest that during the month of September twenty-nine courts will be lighted.

With these details before them I am sure the Walkley residents will appreciate that their representatives are going to it that they do get attention.

Next month I hope to submit further details concerning other aspects.

J. W. HOLLAND.

\$60,000 RETURNED TO CUSTOMERS.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK SOCIETY'S INCREASES.

The half-yearly report of the Brightside and Carbroom Society shows a turnover for the past twenty-six weeks of £708,995, which is an increase over the corresponding period of last year of £34,852. As the corresponding period, however, represented twenty-seven weeks last year, this increase shows a lower ratio than is actually the case. Not only so, but as prices are somewhat lower, the increase in bulk sales is more than is shown by the cash figures. This record of sales for the half-year completes a total for twelve months' trade of £1,450,295. During the half-year, some 3,633 new members have been enrolled, making a total increase during the twelve months of 4,834, and an aggregate membership of 53,522.

The half-year has been very satisfactory also from the point of view of surplus created, for, after providing for all working expenses, including interest

and depreciation charges (which latter absorbed the sum of £2,011), writing off £1,000 on special depreciation, £2,000 off butcherly patent, placing £2,000 to reserve fund, and carrying forward £1,403, the directors announce a disposable balance of £60,615.

This highly satisfactory result has been achieved during a period when there has been very little increase in the general prosperity of the city, and it represents increases upon increases for the last three or four years. With these figures in mind, and in view of the fine shopping facilities now provided at the new central premises, along with the developments on the housing estates and in other districts, there would appear to be no logical reason why every Sheffielder should not join the co-operative movement forthwith. The directors and members alike are to be congratulated on the rapid progress of the society.

Cheerio!

With acknowledgments to the Sheffield Co-operative Society, official journal of the Co-operative Movement.

A Chapp. Pal.

When W. W. Morris opened a 6d. store in Aldershot one of the natives asked for the best department.

Exciting.

Inquisitive visitor (to famous footballer): "What was the most exciting game you ever played?"

Footballer: "I remember I was running along down the hill at my foot, when suddenly I saw the referee look at his watch, and the crowd shouted, 'Shoot, man, shoot,' and I shot."

Visitor: "Did you score?"

Footballer: "Score? Why it took me ten minutes to get the ball out between my toes!"

The Gentle Shopper.

She was very well dressed, and as she walked into the fashionable boot shop the manager himself came forward to serve.

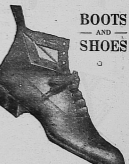
"What you have just received two thousand pairs of ladies' shoes from Paris," he said. "Yes, indeed," she said, "I am so glad to hear that." "Good!" said the young lady, sitting down. "I wish to try them on!"

It Got Delivered.

Postcard Jokes: "The postal authorities are not doing many people much good." "How's that?" "I had a letter addressed to 'The Bazaar' in London, and it came back to me!"

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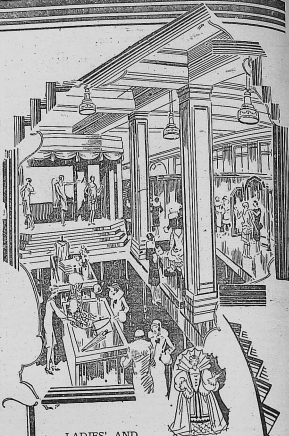
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THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK Co-operative Society Limited are holding their first series of Mannequin Parades on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, September 10th, 11th, and 13th, in the FASHION SALON (first floor), at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. each day, preceded by a gorgeous Pageant of Period Fashions in the history of the Sheffield Castle (on the site of which the new building stands).

Q An Informal Parade will be held each day at 3 p.m. in Ye. Olde Castle Restaurant.

As a unique display of the old and the new in Fashion this will prove a most interesting occasion, and it is with every confidence that your presence is invited.

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AFTER THE PARADES

take Luncheon or Tea in the Restaurant (2nd floor), where delightful menus make a fitting conclusion to what we hope will be a very enjoyable time.

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