



# LABOUR REDEEMS ITS PLEDGES.

## SPLENDID RECORD OF SOCIAL LEGISLATION.

ALTHOUGH the Labour Government has been in office for less than six months, has had to spend a great deal of that time in straightening out the muddle and disposing of the obstacles left by its Tory predecessors, and is handicapped by the fact that its position in the House is a minority one, it is making wonderful progress in the fulfilment of the pledges that it gave at the General Election. Of the promises made in the Party Election Manifesto, the following have already been fulfilled or are in process of fulfilment, viz.:

### WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

The Government has already piloted through most of its Parliamentary stages a Bill to give pensions to 500,000 widows and many thousands of old people and fatherless children. Nearly £100,000,000 of pensions will be paid during the first sixteen years of the scheme's operation.

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

The Government's Unemployment Insurance Bill, the first step towards the fulfilment of its pledge, has already received its second reading. It provides another £12,000,000 in benefits; increases the allowance for wives by 2s. a week, and those for young people by several shillings weekly; repeals the harsh "No Genuinely Seeking Work" Clause; reduces the insurance age to coincide with the school-leaving age of fifteen from the year 1933; and extends the transitional period for a further year, thus containing benefit to 120,000 unemployed people who would otherwise be deprived of their right to it.

### UNEMPLOYMENT SCHEMES.

Development Schemes valued at £42,000,000 have already been sanctioned, schemes valued at many more millions are under examination and consideration, and steps are being taken through the instrumentality of Mr. J. H. Thomas to secure overseas orders for our exporting industries.

### RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

Diplomatic and commercial relations have been re-established, an agreement having previously been obtained to provide for the cessation of hostile propaganda and the consideration of the questions outstanding between the two countries.

### WAR PENSIONS' SEVEN YEARS' LIMIT.

This has been removed, so that ex-servicemen's claims may still be considered.

### WASHINGTON (48 HOURS) CONVENTION.

The Government has already formally notified the League of Nations of its intention to ratify the Convention.

### THE COAL INDUSTRY.

Bills are already in course of preparation to reorganize the marketing system, shorten the hours of labour, acquire the Mining Royalties for the State, and establish a National Board to safeguard mining conditions. These represent only a first instalment of the Government's intentions.

The Government has countermanded the order of the Tory Government whereby the subsidy in aid of houses to let would have been reduced from October 1st. A Bill is in course of preparation to deal drastically with Slum Clearance.

### RENT RESTRICTION ACTS.

These Acts have been included in the Expiring Laws Continuation Bill to be continued for a further year.

### SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE.

The Government has announced that the school-leaving age will be raised to fifteen from 20th July 1931, and Local Education Authorities have been asked to make the necessary preparations.

### PROFITTEERING IN FOOD.

The Government has announced to Parliament its intention of setting up a Consumers' Council, armed with powers to make profiteers reveal their profits and conform to the standard of prices which the Council may find to be reasonable.

### LICENSING LAWS.

In order to prepare the way for the reform of the Licensing Laws, a Royal Commission is carrying out a full and impartial inquiry.

### INQUIRIES INTO DEPRESSED INDUSTRIES.

Committees of Inquiry have been set up into the causes of depression in the cotton and iron and steel industries, with a view to their reorganisation.

### FACTORY ACTS.

The preparation of the Factories Bill nearly completed, and it will be introduced into Parliament within the next few weeks.

### TRADE UNION LAW.

A Bill to do away with injustices caused by the Tory Government's Anti-Trade Union Act of 1927 has already been presented.

### DISARMAMENT.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's negotiations have dispelled the suspicions between Britain and America, and have enabled an arrangement to be reached whereby the two nations will co-ordinate in promoting the cause of world naval disarmament instead of indulging in the warship-building race that at one time was threatened. A conference of the five big naval powers has already been called to consider how they can disarm, building has been stopped on a number of cruisers and submarines, and work on the Singapore naval base has been held up.

### THE OPTIONAL CLAUSE.

The Government has formally notified the League of Nations of its acceptance of the Optional Clause, whereby international justiciable disputes will be submitted to arbitration.

### PEACE.

Many steps have been and are being taken in the cause of peace. Only one need be mentioned—Mr. Henderson's agreement for evacuation of the Rhine-

land. The "Daily News" described this as "one of the most substantial steps towards real peace that have been taken since the war ended."

Considering that it has been in office less than six months, the Government can give a very good account indeed of its stewardship.

## HUGE REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF CLAIMS DISALLOWED ON ACCOUNT OF "NOT GENUINELY SEEKING WORK."

### MISS BONFIELD POINTS TO THE FIRST FRUITS OF LABOUR'S POLICY.

SOME comment has been made on the fact that since the present Government took office more claims to unemployment benefit have been disallowed, on the ground that the claimant was not genuinely seeking work, than during the same period last year.

"Actually," said Miss Bonfield in a statement to our representative, "the weekly average of claims disallowed on the ground of not genuinely seeking work has fallen steadily since the present Government took office, and is now lower than it has ever been since the present Act came into operation."

"The monthly average for the quarter ended March 12th, 1929, was 39,424."

In the following quarter the average was 25,016.

In the quarter ended September 6th, the first quarter after the present Government took office, it fell to 18,720."

The new procedure, instituted by Miss Bonfield, under which claims are referred to Boards of Assessors, came into operation on September 10th, 1929, and the weekly average number of disallowances on the ground "not genuinely seeking work" in the following five weeks fell to 2,656 as compared with 4,120 in the previous month, and 5,668 during the comparable five weeks last year.

"Thanks to the Labour Government, therefore, things have been improved. But there are still further improvements in store under the Bill that Miss Bonfield now has under preparation."

## £19,000,000 WORTH OF GOOD LABOUR LEGISLATION.

### New Financial Commitments Involved by Labour Government's Enactments.

In the House of Commons, on November 19th, in reply to two questions as to the amount of extra financial commitments incurred by the present Government since its accession to office, Mr. Philip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, replied—

"The estimated expenditure falling on the Exchequer in consequence of

the commitments specified amounts to £8,250,000 in the current financial year, and £49,000,000 next year. These figures are exclusive of commitments arising under the two Development Acts of the present Session. These latter will be the subject of a White Paper shortly to be laid before the House by the Lord Privy Seal. The nature of course, relates exclusively to commitments entered into by the present Government, and has no reference to any liabilities inherited from their predecessors."

The figures are as follow—

Commitment.	Estimated Expenditure.	1929.	2030.
1. Under the provision of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1929	3,500,000	3,500,000	
2. Under the proposals contained in the Unemployment Insurance (No. 2) Bill, 1929	3,700,000	8,600,000	
3. Under the proposals contained in the Widows, Orphans, and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill, 1929	40,000	5,000,000	
4. Under the projected scheme for raising the school-leaving age from 15 from April 1st, 1931		31,000	
5. Agriculture: Miscellaneous new services initiated, and existing services extended, for the development of agriculture, including special capital grant of 2,000,000 to the Development Fund	40,000	700,000	
6. Forestry Commission: Expansion of development programme, on account of unemployment		400,000	
7. Under the Housing (Revision of Contributions) Act, 1929	11,000	100,000	
8. Civil Service Bonus, under concession announced in House of Commons on July 23rd, 1929	800,000		
9. Concessions of paid holidays to Civil Service industrial staff	100,000	500,000	
10. Concessions in respect of standard pay and retired pay of officers of Army, Navy, and Air Force, for period July 1st, 1930, to July 30th, 1931 (total cost £137,000)		100,000	
		£8,250,000	15,907,000

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## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

### CO-OPERATIVE PARTY SUCCESS.

The Co-operative Party put forward seven candidates in the recent Municipal Election, and secured the election of six of them.

#### Tinsley.

In Attercliffe our representative, Councillor S. H. Marshall, expressed a preference for the new Tinsley section of the ward. Arrangements were made accordingly, and Councillor S. H. Marshall headed the poll in the Tinsley Ward by securing a majority of 1,175.

#### Firth Park.

Mrs. S. E. Ager (a member of the board of management of the Brightside and Carbrook Society) secured a vote of 2,588, along with her two colleagues, Councillor Asbury and Mr. P. Buchanan, all the three being elected in the Firth Park Ward, a district which was a very doubtful quantity so far as Co-operative and Labour representation was concerned. It says much for the courage of Councillor Asbury that he left a safe seat in order to win this new ward for the Co-operative and Labour cause.

#### Darnall.

The president of the Brightside and Carbrook Society (Mr. J. Dimberline, J.P.) secured a well-earned majority over his Liberal and Communist opponents as the joint Co-operative and Labour candidate.

#### Neepsend.

The Neepsend Ward was again true to its previous representation, and re-elected Councillor J. Havatt with a majority of 1,800.

#### Owlerton.

In Owlerton an arrangement was made whereby Councillor A. Barton and Mr. R. E. Jones, J.P., represent the co-operative movement, and Mr. W. Ibbotson (chairman of the Hillsborough Labour Party) stood for the Labour cause. The campaign was, of course, a united one, and all three were elected.

#### Hillsborough.

The new Hillsborough Ward—in which the Citizens' Association have perhaps the best organisation of any of our opponents throughout the city—was known as a very tough proposition so far as the Co-operative and Labour cause is concerned. Nevertheless, our candidate, Mr. James Gill, who has fought the ward previously, made a formidable attack upon this "Citizens' stronghold." It says much for his popularity and capacity that he secured no fewer than 2,950 votes on a poll of 5,028 against a candidate who has consistently "nursed" the ward for quite a long time, and who has represented the ward on the Board of Guardians for many years. Moreover, as on previous occasions, a fleet of cars were put at the disposal of the "Citizens' candidate, and the strongest possible organisation was tuned up to resist Mr. Gill's powerful attack. The keenness of the fight in this ward is proved by the fact that Hillsborough, with the exception of Crooksmoor Ward, polled the highest percentage of votes, viz., 54.7 per cent.; the percentage of votes cast for the whole city being 40 per cent. Gradually the Co-operative and Labour

cause is increasing its popularity and strengthening its organisation. In the old Hillsborough Ward contest Mr. J. Havatt, and that his vote was only had one-third of the Co-operative vote, whilst now we have secured 90 per cent. of the representation by the election of our three Owlerton representatives.

#### Aldermen.

In the election of the new aldermen, two of our Co-operative candidates were elevated, namely, Mr. A. Barton and Mr. J. Havatt. This gave the party the opportunity of contesting Neepsend and Owlerton to fill the vacancies vacated. Mr. F. W. R. Stiles, the secretary of our Neepsend Ward Committee and chairman of the Neepsend Co-operative meeting, was selected as the Co-operative nominee, and secured election unopposed. Mr. Stiles has been closely connected with the movement in the Neepsend area for a number of years, and is well known in the ward, in which he has resided practically the whole of his life.

In Owlerton Ward Mr. James Gill was put forward as the Co-operative candidate against Mr. W. Hobson. In spite of the apathy which always characterises by-elections so near after the general Municipal Elections, Mr. Gill succeeded in reducing his opponent's vote by over 400, and securing election by a majority of 703. As Councillor Gill pointed out in moving a vote of thanks to the Presiding Officers and staff, he had not forsaken Hillsborough, but had merely stood for that section of the old Hillsborough Ward which gave him the bulk of his support in the election campaign a year ago.

The whole of our new representation can be trusted to justify their election sufficiently to make the whole of the seats now represented by Co-operative candidates quite secure for the future.

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PRIZE DAY AT MARCLIFFE ROAD.

## FIRST LORD'S STRIKING SPEECH.



Front row—Mr. P. Sharp, B.Sc. (Director of Education), Mr. W. Jackson, Alderman H. W. Jackson, Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty), Alderman E. G. Rowlinson, J.P., Alderman E. Snelgrove, Mr. A. Ballard, Mr. H. S. Newton, Mr. W. E. Smith (Headmaster).

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The fifth annual prize distribution at the Marcliffe-road Intermediate School took place on Friday, November 15th, when a great crowd of children, parents, and friends gathered in the Assembly Room under the chairmanship of Alderman E. G. Rowlinson, J.P., chairman of the Sheffield Education Committee. In addition to the Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Percival Sharp (director of education for Sheffield), Alderman H. Jackson, Alderman E. Snelgrove, Mr. H. S. Newton, Mr. Sopwith (schools inspector), and Mr. A. Ballard were on the platform, along with the headmaster and members of the school teaching staff.

Alderman E. G. Rowlinson, in congratulating the school on the remarkable success achieved, stated that the school had been the centre of attraction throughout Great Britain in that it had upset old ideas regarding the qualifications requisite for extended education. Not only had they upset old ideas, but they had acted as a fine example of what could be achieved, and at a very opportune time, a time when educationists were thinking of readjustment, and were considering the problem of a wider education for all children over eleven years.

#### First Lord of the Admiralty.

Mr. Alexander said that he was proud of the Marcliffe-road results. It was a matter of national interest, and he quoted the comments of a friend of his, Miss Doerly, a high school headmistress, showing that it was a matter of surprise that the children who had achieved such splendid results in obtaining the School Certificate, and in many cases matriculating, that these children all came from the elementary schools and were not by any means selected from one class of the community. Proceeding, he emphasised the importance of education during these days of the wider franchise, the increased interest the State was taking as such in the every day affairs of our people; and quoting the old phrase, "Educate our masters," he showed that the change in political balance of power had come with far less difficulty than would otherwise have been the case because of the increased educational facilities now being offered to the working class. As Diogenes remarked, "The foundation of every State is the education of its youth." Nor in thinking of the relation of education to the State should we think only of book knowledge or technical skill. Men of character become the conscience of the State. Herbert Spencer reminds us that "A nation's institutions and beliefs are determined by its character."

#### The Importance of Knowledge.

Leaving that side of the question for the moment, Mr. Alexander went on to speak of the importance of knowledge

and power to the democrat in our present national position. In relation to the command of trade and the markets of the world, general knowledge was of increasing importance. What was needed was the trained mind which would not boggle over new ideas because they were novelties, and so, quite apart from purely vocational training, our success in providing general education must ultimately have tremendous effect upon our national prosperity. Even so, he hoped that the mistake of packing the curriculum too full for the ordinary child would not be made. It would be a mistake to teach "a little of everything and nothing at all." He had always had his views as to the wisdom of confining such a range of compulsory subjects for matriculation. The child who can do things better than he can express himself in other ways ought to have his chance of further education, designed to develop his own peculiar gifts to the full.

#### Technical Education.

Our technical education system has advanced by leaps and bounds, but there is much room for further improvement. One of our Prime Ministers said that "technical education is the exaltation of manual labour," and we certainly need to day to restore a proper balance. To recognise the dignity of labour, and that there is no reason why a matriculation result should end in an administrative or even routine job. The balance of non-productive labour is growing too much, and he would like to see boys and girls matriculating and going into productive employment. The new Hadow scheme was, fortunately, entering for children who may now be classified as "dull." The reorganising of the school age would tend in the direction he had indicated.

#### Character.

After delivering a special appeal to the boys and girls who were now leaving school, Mr. Alexander emphasised the necessity of the development of character. Quoting from Emerson's essay on "Self-Reliance," he said: "There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance. That imitation is suicide. That he must take himself for better for worse on his portion. That though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given him to till." When you leave school, with your education you have got trust yourself and develop your own powers. Don't arouse because somebody is doing better—apparently. Make your own niche in life, from which you mean to contribute to the happiness and prosperity of those around you, and therefore to the raising of the standard of life for the people. Mr. Percival Sharp, B.Sc., paid a

striking tribute to Mr. Alexander for his speech, in which, said Mr. Sharp, Mr. Alexander had crammed more sound educational wisdom than he (Mr. Sharp) had heard for a long time. Mr. Alexander had, in fact, missed his way; instead of having such a footing job as First Lord of the Admiralty, he ought to have been a Director of Education. Alderman H. W. Jackson emphasised the necessity of character, atmosphere, and tone in school life, and said that, to his mind, Marcliffe-road was equal in that regard to the public schools, and that he would have no hesitation whatever in putting his own boy under the care of such a headmaster as Mr. W. E. Smith and at such a school as Marcliffe.

Mr. W. E. Smith, the headmaster, in giving his report, showed that forty-five pupils had been prepared for school certificates and matriculation examination, and forty-one had passed; nineteen had matriculated. There was no selection of the most capable children for the examination, and yet the percentage of passes was 91.1.

Mr. Smith's report was accepted with loud applause.

Mr. A. Ballard, Mr. Sopwith, and Mr. H. S. Newton, in thanking the speakers, the headmaster, and the staff, also paid tribute to the fine work that was being carried on in this comparatively new school.

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## BOOK REVIEW.

NORMAN WALKER's talks by "wireless" are pretty well known to those who have interest but not training in Biology. He is an adept at making his subject simple, and gaining the interest of those who need to have jam with the medicine.

So far as we know, this is the only really useful book on the subject, of a practical nature, which can be easily understood without a tutor. The directions given are so explicit, and even a child could follow them, and the experiments are direct helps at making the reader think, whether he knows he is doing so or not.

### A "Cheap" Pastime.

There are few things wanted in the way of "implements," although as one reads and becomes enthusiastic, the possession of a microscope would be a useful addition. Two hundred years ago, spectacles were rare; two hundred years hence it is probable that microscopes will be at least as plentiful and as easily "come-at-able" as spectacles are now. What an enlarging world it will become; very leaf at once an interesting piece of living machinery; a plant "lung" suspended in the outer air with its own definite work to do. The beauty of minute structure will come into view, and a great many ugly human creations will be shown by the patient and exquisite work of nature.

### How to Read.

There are twenty-seven chapters in this book, giving a fairly full outline of plant activities. One chapter a week, carefully read, and the reader will make twenty-seven weeks not only interesting, but useful. It is a great mind-training, giving one a considerable growth of both character and confidence, to have mastered the simple outline set forth in such a book as this.

A man who is fond of gardening will be able to grow his vegetables and flowers very much more intelligently if he gained this knowledge; he would not only know—as usually he does—how to do certain things, but those who are trying to establish not only world-wide peace, but world-wide fellow in this country. Not giants of finance and millionsaire, but Peace and Prosperity to the mass of the people of the earth. Christ and ideal that should be celebrated during our Christmas festivities.

The Sheffield Co-operator.

DECEMBER, 1910.

## TO YOU AND ALL MANKIND.

In wishing the Compliments of the Season to every one of our readers, we would draw attention to the fact that the Christmas season is the fact of the season, and that as a nation we are probably nearer to the ideal of making the Christmas spirit at the present time than at any time since the first War. The luckiest year since the first War is characterized by many "Specimens" of relations with foreign powers continue to be "friendly" has often rung untrue because we have known that Governments were not "seeking peace, and pursuing it" that the peace indicated was a "peace largely used in preparation for a new war." This year, however, we have seen definite efforts made in the direction of peace in the signing of the Rhineland, the evacuation of the Americas, the steps already taken for Naval Disarmament, the settlement with Russia, and the calling of the Five-Power Conference, are achievements in the pursuit of a world-wide peace policy, and it will be the nations professing Christianity should remember at Christmastide that the message regarding the Advent of the Christ-Child was that He should bring Peace and Goodwill to all men.

Whilst striving towards this ideal we should remember that before the spirit of peace can pervade the relations between the nations of the world it must become part of our practical everyday living amongst our fellows. We are pleased, therefore, that the present season witness attempts to bridge the gap between the classes—the widows and orphans, the unemployed, and those generally classified as the "disadvantaged" and oppressed—are receiving consideration by the community as never before. All power to the hands of those who are trying to establish not only world-wide peace, but world-wide fellow in this country. Not giants of finance and millionsaire, but Peace and Prosperity to the mass of the people of the earth. Christ and ideal that should be celebrated during our Christmas festivities.

(Continued from previous column)

and noting results, and setting out his conclusions. Mendel is a fine example of what an inquisitive and painstaking man can do when he begins to poke his fingers into Nature's doings. It is excellent that so adequate a treatment of his theory is given in the book now under consideration, since Mendelism is a matter being discussed in many directions in life.

Eugenics, the treatment of the criminal, the making of law, the question of education and of activity are so influenced by what we may happen to think on many other matters. There is a physical basis for most future application no less so in the knowledge of what Mendelism implies is an essential in the education of any aspiring man as a woman.

### The Old and the New.

When some of us contrast the books that were available for his thirty or forty years ago with the "clearly written" more illustrated "books" of to-day, we are prompted to "acknowledge" we are "too slow" to take to reading! It would be a grind; it is now a pleasant way to turn the fireside into a laboratory (almost) and winter sleep into summer merriment.

Big-minded folk are fairly "wounded" people with wide interests and sympathetic spirits. Here we have a new "simple" writing and good illustrations, which will help in the art of making our own experiments; and "into one of the avenues of Nature's work are met; for private pleasure, and for the sake of the world, and for the sake of the book itself" (for the best of us in the room) it would be hard to find a more stimulating and more "worthwhile."

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## A SECRET.

JOHN BOLSTROUD was weary and discontent. There seemed no adequate reason for it. He had a thriving business, and a decent income. His children were coming on nicely at college. Yet he was unhappy. So was his wife, Elsie. She had not been well of late, and moved listlessly about. Sometimes she was sharp-tongued and spoke in bitter tones of life, and grumbled about his past life. He had been sober and hardworking and good. Yes, he could say that without affectation. He had been true to his wife, kind to his family, and as just in his dealings as the commercial system would allow. There seemed no reason for dissatisfaction. And yet he was miserable, and so was his life. What was the reason?

Yet all through John's reasoning lackwits a word "selfishness." He tried to ignore it, but it came up again and again, till he was forced to recognise it. He began to ask himself: "What have I done to spread happiness and love among my fellow men?" It is true he had been just, but how harsh justice could be! He remembered how he had treated in that cold-blooded manner — "business-like" was the phrase, by which he justified it to himself — in which he treated his employees. "But if he didn't, they would impose upon him?" "Would they?" "And if they did, what then? Must he refuse to be kind, because some people would impose on it? Hadn't he the courage to do right?"

John closed the office and walked slowly home. He must try and take up a fresh attitude. And what if he did? Would his wife understand and appreciate it? Would his employees think more of him than they did? There it was — selfishness again. What did it matter what anyone thought of him so long as he was pleasing his conscience?

It was bound to take time for a new course of action to succeed. He passed a florist's. The wild idea came into his head to take some flowers home. He went inside and bought some. He never felt so embarrassed in his life before, as he went on with the flowers in his hand. Why did everyone look at him so?

He slipped it a tramway stopping place. Two little children stood and gazed at him. They looked at the flowers with ecstatic delight. "What pretty posies," and the older of the two John Bolstrode looked at them. Their little feet had shoes, it is true, but so worn, they were hardly any protection to the feet. Their clothes were equally ragged. They were passing on, but John strode up to them. He placed the flowers in the hands of the girl. "Here posies, just for your joy," he said. Then he asked them about their home. Their mother was sick, their father out of work. They had only dry bread to eat. And yet they enjoyed the beauty of the flowers! And he, John Bolstrode, had neglected beauty all these years, with all the means of procuring it! It seemed as though one could only appreciate beauty through the eyes and the joy of others. He went with them to a dark court, and he and his family and radiant. "How late you are," said his wife in a peevish tone, and she looked up at him. "What has made you so late home?" "Do I look happy?" said John. "It is because I have discovered a secret." "A secret," said his wife. "And what secret is that?"

"That the best way to be happy is to think of the happiness of others." "Is it now starting right away?" "I'm it rather late in the day to discover that," she replied. And John took her in his arms. "It is new to me," he said. And John opened there was nothing sweeter than the merry laugh of his wife as she flung her arms round his neck.

## THE CITY EMPORIUM.

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK SOCIETY STILL MAKING PROGRESS.

THE current quarterly report of the Brightside and Carbroom Society is another record of democratic achievement. When it is remembered that the "B. and C." is catering for an almost purely working-class public, and supplying many unemployed and part-time workers with their household commodities, it is something to be proud of that the directors are able to report an increase in trade over the twelve months of no less than £20,410, representing a total trade of nearly £1,500,000. The directors are ambitious to achieve a £2,000,000 trade for 1930, and make the interesting suggestion that an additional 2s. 6d. per week per member on the average purchase will practically achieve this magnificent result.

The present membership of the society stands at 54,776, and shows an increase of 2500 in capital has increased in like manner. The City Stores — that fine emporium in Exchange-street, which is the envy of our competitors and a triumph of business ability — has contributed very largely to the increase in trade recorded. Within the walls of this fine suite of shops co-operators can secure practically every household need. The furnishing, drapery, book and shoe, tailoring, outfitting, drug, grocery, confectionery and even various amusements leave nothing to be desired in the way of up-to-date service, high quality, and moderately priced commodities.

The new premises on the Longley estate are doing a combined trade of nearly £500 per week, and plans are being prepared for the erection of other premises on the Southey Green-road side to cater for another part of the same estate.

Alterations at Nottingham-street, Ecclesfield, Carbroom-street, and Hockley-road are also being pushed forward, whilst general developments in other parts of the society are receiving attention.

## FORGING AHEAD.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL SOCIETY'S STRIKING PROGRESS.

THE 23rd quarterly report of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society, just issued, reveals a very healthy state of affairs, the total sales for the year amounting to £1,070,000, representing an increase of £65,000 on the year's sales, or equal to 6 per cent. This increase is a continuance of past increases that have been reported for quite a number of years. Compared with three years ago, the society's trade has been enlarged to the extent of £270,445. The contributions to the share capital of the society show similar progress, and the directors are in the happy position of being able to announce that, although there is surplus capital amounting to a very large sum, which has been reinvested on deposit with the bankers and in cooperation loan, they can now award members' share capital and pay 4½ per cent. per annum of use of same.

The total membership is now 42,000, and represents an increase of 2,711 over the corresponding period of last year. There has been a substantial increase in penny bank deposits, and through the medium of that excellent system of saving — the home safe scheme.

### New Developments.

Alterations and developments with regard to the society's trading facilities are also proceeding apace. As an example, the dairy department has now reached a weekly total of over £1,000, and the increase over the quarter under review amounts to 33 per cent. of the trade. The excellent new dairy and garage are now in course of construction. Millhouses, a contract for both the building and the machinery has been given to the Co-operative Wholesale Society. These premises when completed will constitute the most up-to-date pasteurising and bottling plant within the city of Sheffield. The projected extensions at the Arcade are also now well advanced, whilst alterations and extensions in other parts of the city are also being pushed forward.

The new venture in the way of a dressmaking shop — which was opened on Tuesday, November 2nd, by Councillor A. Laing, J.P., the president of the society — has proved itself so successful as to warrant repetition in subsequent years.

The society is to be congratulated on the remarkable progress it is making, whilst many other businesses of the city are still languishing at least in a comparatively depressed state.

## TORY TRIBUTES TO LABOUR'S SUCCESS.

EVERY Tory ex-M.P. is at last discovering that Labour is really the party for the country. Thus Capt. Harold MacMillan (ex-Tory M.P. for Stockton-on-Tees) says: "In my personal experience I find a very large measure of support for the (Labour Party) among all the younger men and women of high intellectual achievement whom I have been attracted by. . . . The Socialist policy stands as a definite contribution to political thought."

As if to bear him out, the students of the Cambridge University Union, on the same day, gave a verdict of confidence in the Labour Government, after one of their debates, by a majority nearly half as large as the votes for the Tories and Liberals combined.

Meanwhile, Captain MacMillan has come to the conclusion that the present Tory Party is played out. "Have we," he says, "at present any definite counter to the Labour Party? Frankly, No! I think the last Government's policies were largely destroyed by its inability to produce any movements towards a more rational solution of the problems of our heavy industries." Truth will quit!

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We have a delightful range of new and attractive styles.



87—Ladies' Felt Gollar Arlet Slipper. Good quality, mild uppers.



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M398—Gents' Black Kid Slipper. Good binding. Flexible leather sole and lined. Good leather sole and lined.



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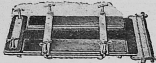
## "OUR CIRCLE" MONTHLY IS ONE PENNY

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## TAILORING (RESPECTABLE &amp; READY-TO-WEAR) DEPT.

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Around the home fire,  
With flames leaping higher,  
'Tis holly and mistle-  
toe berry,  
We gather together,  
Defying the weather,  
For this is the time to  
be merry.  
E. M. HAILES.

We take this opportunity of wishing all our members and patrons a New Year's Greeting.

The foundation of a nation's success rests upon the happiness of its home life. S. WATSON.

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## Beautiful Homes.

Our success depends upon the fulfilment of this obligation.  
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## CITIZENSHIP.

"Government is the expression of the degree of civilization of the population that permits it." —EMERSON.

It is a very curious fact that although most of us realise the importance of good government, we take less interest in politics than in any other subject. This attitude prevails to a greater or less degree in all classes, but specially amongst the working class. We can find time and mental energy to study many other things, including sport, but we have some sort of notion that politics and all its problems can safely be left to professional politicians. We read our daily papers and take out our opinions mostly from their headlines, but few of us indulge in any degree of careful thought about the problems of the day.

It is necessary to realise we don't live in Italy where, presumably, Mussolini manages everything for the best. In this country it is our votes which determine national policy on all subjects, and however worthy the citizens of a self-governing country may be in general respects, the country cannot prosper unless the citizens have the sense to elect competent and honest rulers to manage their affairs. The mistakes of statesmen are very soon reflected in all our homes. Poverty, unemployment, wars, and other social evils, are not the effect of natural laws, but the results of bad management. Good government can do much towards bringing about an era of peace, good will and prosperity, and if we ever get a better organised society it will be because we have had the good sense to elect a government, or a series of governments, able and willing to achieve some of our ideals.

It is true, as somebody has said, that "a nation gets the government it deserves." When we elect politicians, knowing their character and views, we have no right to blame them for failing to give us the promised land. If we want our affairs managed properly we have got to exercise some discernment in choosing our legislators. We have no right to support a healthy press because the press is considered by statesmen to reflect public opinion.

It is possible the full obligations of citizenship will not be appreciated until the subject is taught in the schools. The younger generation must be taught not merely a few historical facts bearing on politics, but that citizenship is a sacred duty. Not until citizenship is elevated into something of a religion can we expect to get citizens in the best sense of the word.

We may in fact have to offer some inducement to study politics, for it involves some degree of self-sacrifice, or to inflict penalties on the indifferent. At present it is too often the case that the man who studies politics only brings

trouble on himself. In the best of circumstances he gets nothing for his pains, whilst all the prizes of life go to those who successfully grudge their own peace. In one of his books Mr. H. C. Wells grades the people of a model country according to their general intelligence, additional votes being given according to mental attainments, but possibly some such means will be devised for honouring good citizens and stigmatising those who shirk their social responsibilities.

There are, of course, excuses for the working man's indifference to politics. Very often he is too much engrossed in the problems of getting a living to worry about abstract things. Sometimes he is lulled by their own account if his lack of education. Then he is taught that his principal duty is to take care of "number one" and ordered to confirm this lesson. There is, however, a growing interest in politics amongst the working class and the educational process is being stimulated by the hard knocks and disillusionment administered to him by reactionary politicians during the past few years.

There is undoubtedly a growing appreciation of the importance of citizenship, which is evidenced by the fact that politicians now find it a good subject for their perorations. Finally, it is necessary to emphasize that citizenship means more than the study of economics and politics. It implies a belief that the interests of mankind are identical, that the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all. Unemployment, slums, poverty, widespread illiteracy, are diseases of the social organism, bad for the community as a whole.

Until the doctrine of "each for himself and the devil take the hindmost" is superseded by the religion of "each for all," the ideals of democracy can never be realised.

—"MEMORIST," in "The Courier."

## CO-OPERATIVE LEAGUE TO GIVE "MESSIAH."

The Brightside and Abchurch Colliery Choral Society is to give a performance of Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," on Sunday, January 19th, 1930, at 7.30 p.m., in the Attic-chapel Wesleyan Hall. The principals are: Miss Ethel Barber (soprano), Margaret Watson (contralto), Mr. Clifford Kemshall (tenor), and Mr. Angus Jones (bass). The conductor is Mr. J. A. Histon. The chorus will be augmented, and accompanied by Mr. Harold Long's orchestra. The organist is Mr. E. Hallam. There will be a silver collection.

## TORY M.P. THINKS WIDOWS OUGHT NOT TO HAVE PENSIONS AT 55.

THEY OUGHT TO WAIT TILL 60, HE SAYS.

ONE of the most surprising amendments moved to the Widows Pensions Bill from the Tory benches during the Committee stage of that measure was the one put forward by Sir Basil Peto, the Tory Member for Barnstaple.

Under this amendment (subsequently withdrawn) the widows would have been made to wait till the age sixty for their pensions instead of receiving them at fifty-five as provided in the Bill.

And this is what this Tory M.P. had to say about the widows in the speech with which he moved the amendment.

"It is only at about the age of sixty that their physical strength begins to deteriorate to such an extent that earning becomes a burden instead of a pleasure. . . . I am sure that many women of fifty-five and sixty can earn as much as women of a younger age."

The Government spokesmen vigorously defended the granting of pensions at fifty-five, and ultimately this age was retained in the Bill.

## EMPLOYEES IN H.M. DOCKYARDS.

MORE THAN LAST YEAR.

OWING to wild Tory stories that have been circulated about wholesale dismissals from the Government Dockyards in consequence of the Government's Disarmament Policy, the following figures are placed on record.

They were given by the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Right Hon. A. Alexander, M.P., in the House of Commons on November 20th, as reply to a question—

Number of work-people borne on the books of the Royal Dockyards at home on November 1st, 1929, was . . . . . 56,225

Corresponding number a year ago, November 1st, 1928, was 56,326  
The figures for the various dockyards were:

	Nov. 1st, 1928.	Nov. 1st, 1929.
Portsmouth . . . . .	13,474	13,463
Devonport . . . . .	11,709	11,729
Chatham . . . . .	8,404	8,555
Sheerness . . . . .	2,130	2,131
Pembroke Dock . . . . .	1,053	1,054
Rosyth . . . . .	605	

# A CO-OPERATOR'S NOTEBOOK.

## A Merry Christmas.

The writer of these "Notes" takes the opportunity of wishing his readers A Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season.

For co-operators there is the comforting knowledge that co-operative societies do a great deal towards making Christmas a really festive season, for co-operative trade brings prosperity in its train.

There are many homes in England, hard hit by unemployment and low wages at the present time, which would not be visited by "Father Christmas" were it not for the fact that co-operative dividend provides the means for his visits so welcome to the children. When one sees co-operative dividend reflected in the joyous faces of children at this particular season of the year, one realises the human aspect of co-operation and how truly it merges with the spirit of Christmased.

## A Christmas Duty.

A co-operative store bestows its benefits on members during the whole course of the year, and in making purchases of Christmas and New Year fare—food, toys, and gifts—co-operators should shop at their own stores.

For several months past officials of the retail co-operative societies and the Wholesale Society have been busy in preparation for the Christmas trade. Long ago buyers from the Wholesale Society travelled to the Near East to purchase the fruit for millions of Christmas puddings that will delight co-operative households, and in all these preparations one motive only is predominant, namely, the desire to serve co-operators, and not to make profits from their needs.

## A Year of Progress.

Christmas sees us near the end of 1929. We are not yet able to assess accurately the measure of progress that has been made by co-operative societies during 1929. The collection and collation of the statistics of the 3,374 co-operative societies in the Co-operative Union is a long and difficult task shouldered by the

Statistical Department of the Co-operative Union, but it is instructive to turn to the complete and detailed statistics for the year 1928, which have recently been issued.

The figures reveal that 1928 was in truth a year of remarkable progress. At the end of 1928 there were 5,855,135 members of retail co-operative societies, a net increase of 206,037 on the previous year. Only in two previous years has there been such a large addition to co-operative membership. Fourteen societies now claim a membership of more than 50,000, these being—

London	295,678
Royal Arsenal	217,671
Birmingham	215,077
Liverpool	218,552
Leeds	105,638
Barnsley	81,453
St. Cuthbert's (Edinburgh)	69,817
Plymouth	68,341
South Suburban	61,674
Newcastle-on-Tyne	61,303
Manchester and Salford	57,632
Bolton	55,749
Derby	57,137
Leicester	51,942

Co-operative trade also shows a large increase in volume. Sales for the last three years being—

1926.	1927.
£184,879,902.	£190,024,028.

1928.  
£209,866,455.  
Thus nearly £10,000,000 of additional retail trade has been added to the Movement during 1928, and nearly £2,000,000 was earned net surplus for distribution as dividend, &c.

## A Consumers' Council.

The Labour Government has determined to end the face of a Food Council without power, and to institute instead a real Consumers' Council. The Food Council did its best, but was repeatedly stultified by the refusal of trading organisations to supply information—and the Food Council had not even the power of compulsion in calling for requisite facts and figures from the traders whose prices and goods were the subject of investigation. Co-opera-

tive societies and the Movement generally supplied much evidence to the Food Council.

Co-operators can afford to view with equanimity the prospect of a vigorous Consumers' Council with power to intervene for the protection of the public. The Co-operative Movement is in effect a trade body, and through its agency millions have been guaranteed pure foods and freedom from profiteering.

Especially is the co-operator exempt from most profiteering devices, for the principles upon which co-operative trade is based give the consumer complete control of the distributive and through its agency millions have been guaranteed pure foods and freedom from profiteering.

Work for the New Council.  
When the new Consumers' Council gets to work there are some tasks which urgently demand its attention. One such is the price maintenance associations like the Proprietary Articles Traders' Associations.

A large number of proprietary articles controlled by this association are only available through co-operative societies if no dividends are given on their sales, or alternatively, if they are sold at higher rates than those of private traders to counteract the benefit of the dividend. Thus, co-operative societies which attempt to secure legitimate economies for consumers are sacrificed for the benefit of private traders who make profits for themselves.

## NEW CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTES.

The Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society has recently opened two new institutes, at Attercliffe and Langley respectively.

On Monday, November 11th, Mr. A. Ballard, president, and Councilor J. Danby, J.P., gave the opening address at the inaugural meeting of the Attercliffe Co-operative Institute. These premises were previously the check office, and have now been transformed into a large hall, with suitable cloakrooms and other outgoings, which will give accommodation for quill, propaganda, political, and social meetings. A management committee has been appointed on the same lines as at the other institutes, and a full programme for evening night in the week arranged. The Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Societies are to make their headquarters at the new institute.

Langley.  
The other room, which was opened on November 26th and 27th, is situated over the new business premises on the Langley Estate. Mr. A. Ballard, president on the first night, whilst Mr. E. Simpson, a member of the Brightside and Carbrook education committee, took the chair on the following night. On both occasions there was a large attendance. A temporary committee has been appointed, and it is intended to form a Men's Guild and a Women's Guild, a section of the Co-operative Party, and a Women's Section, also to arrange a Children's Circle for children from tea to five-tenths years of age.

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LIMITED,  
WELLINGBOROUGH.

## LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO PUT AN END TO PROFITEERING IN FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

ANOTHER of Labour's Election Pledges is being redeemed—the one to put an end to Profiteering in Food. The profiteers won't like it, but the Labour Government consider that they have had their way too long, and that it is time that the interests of the working-class household be given a little more consideration.

## THE PLEDGE.

In the Labour Election Manifesto, it was stated that—  
"A Labour Government . . . would take steps to prevent the profiteering in Food . . ."

## THE FULFILMENT.

On November 5th, in the House of Commons, Mr. William Graham, M.P., the President of the Board of Trade, made the following statement—

"The Government have considered the position of the Food Council, with particular reference to the recent report of London milk distributors to conform to the Council's recommendations as to the retail price of milk in August last. I should like to state that the Government fully recognise the value of the work done by the Food Council, notwithstanding that since its inception in 1925 it has had no statutory basis and has been without power to require the production of information when it was not forthcoming voluntarily. I may add that neither the Food Council nor any other body has power to compel the observance of the Food Council's recommendations.

"In the opinion of the Government, this position is highly unsatisfactory, and we intend to submit proposals to alter it early next year. The Government are of opinion that the interests of the consumer demand that investigation should take place not only in regard to foodstuffs, but also in regard to other necessities of life. With the object in view, we propose to ask Parliament to set up a Consumers' Council, which shall have power to obtain compulsorily any information that it may require for the purposes of its inquiries.

"The Government intend also to submit proposals enabling them to deal with trading interests which refuse to accept the views which the Government may reach after considering the recommendations of the Consumers' Council.  
"As I have already indicated, it must be some months before the Consumers' Council can be set up. It is, therefore, asking the Food Council to remain in being for the purpose of carrying out investigations into such food questions as may arise meanwhile."

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Ten Lots in a "Variety" of Grades:

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Superior Quality, 34/6 per ton.  
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ORDER EARLY!

**N**OWHERE can you see such a magnificent display of everything for the festive table as the B. & C. offer you. The finest of Groceries and Provisions, Fruit, &c., together with Christmas Game, Poultry, and Meat.

Quality is assured at the B. & C.—at exceedingly moderate prices, too.

### PAY US AN EARLY VISIT.

An enticing array of good things which our Bakery Department will produce :

1,000 Christmas Cakes . . . . .	from 2/3 each.	3 Tons Pork Pies (hand raised).
500 Decorated Gateaux . . . . .	from 1/-. "	11,000 Mince Pies.
3,500 Yule Logs . . . . .	from 1/3 "	100 dozen Chocolate and Cream Sandwiches.
3 Tons Slab Cakes,		100 dozen Fruit and Cherry Cakes.

Great Favourites Everywhere!

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Particularly Fine Fruits—  
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