



The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



No. 76.

FEBRUARY, 1930.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000 COPIES.

CO-OPERATION THE HOPE OF THE WORKER.

AN APPEAL FOR GREATER MEMBERSHIP AND INCREASED LOYALTY.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

THE Fourth National Co-operative Propaganda Campaign will be held from Saturday, February 8th, to Saturday, February 22nd, inclusive, and as part of that campaign the two Sheffield societies are endeavouring not only to increase their membership, but to increase the trade per member. Accordingly, we take this opportunity of explaining as simply as may be the reasons why every worker, by hand or brain, in this city should not only become a member of the Co-operative Society, but insist as far as ever possible upon Co-operative productions.

True Economy.

In the first place no weekly wage-earner can possibly spend his money more economically than through the Co-operative Movement. It produces cheap food, clothing, and other necessities, of the purest kind, of the best workmanship, and under the best possible wage conditions. Instead of the profits helping to support a comparatively few wealthy people and many "middle-men," the surplus resulting from the mutual trade of Co-operative members is returned to the members themselves. Many working-class people in Sheffield have lived to bless the Co-operative Movement because of the little "nest egg" which has proved useful to them during the very serious depression in this city, or when through sickness or unemployment they have required a little extra comfort for the family or home.

Trade Unionism.

From the trade unionist point of view there is no possible reason why every trade unionist should not be a 100 per cent. co-operator. Employees of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and of the Retail Societies throughout the country are paid, on the whole, better wages, and work shorter hours than those engaged in private trade. Many societies pay their employees during sickness. They are given all recognised holidays and an annual holiday with pay. A large number of societies, including one of the Sheffield societies, have established superannuation and pension schemes for their employees.

Trade unionists who are asking for good terms of employment, should regard it as a matter of duty to trade with an organisation that gives good terms; that, in fact, insists upon membership of a trade union.

Wages and Prices.

It should be remembered that it is no use even securing high wages if the prices rise proportionately. The Co-operative Movement is the only organisation that has any effective control upon prices. Every Government Report—the Linlithgow Committee, the Committee on Trusts, the Coal Commission, the Food Commission, and so on, have paid a tribute to the relatively low prices of Co-operative Societies as well as the better conditions of labour employed. These reports are really documents in favour of Co-operative trade, and no trade unionist can really be consistent with his own trade union principles unless he is a member of a Co-operative Store and

spends to the maximum of his ability, rather than endeavour to secure common—and very often—impure goods, produced under sweated, or at least non-trade unionist conditions.

Housing.

The Co-operative Movement has played a big part in solving the Housing problem. The Co-operative Insurance Society, the Co-operative Permanent Building Society, and many Retail Societies have established schemes of house purchase enabling thousands of working people to own their own houses. Whilst non-co-operators are paying rent to private traders, middle-men, landowners, and in short people who do not work for a living, co-operators are by the assistance of their own movement living in their own houses, and, after all, the only person fit to own a house is the person who lives in it.

Ownership and Control.

There is a steady growth of the Trust and the Combine which is crushing out the small private trader and abolishing competition by creating monopolies in the supply of certain articles. The effect of this is to control the people's food, clothing, housing, and even entertainment, without any challenge whatever from the mass of the people themselves. The Co-operative Movement is the only trading organisation which can make any effective stand against these monopolies. The following figures will show that it is owned in this country by nearly 6,000,000 people, each one of whom has a voice in the appointment of those who control the Movement on its productive as well as its distributive side.

What would any of the big trading organisations say if the customers asked for the right to remove a director, or if they objected to the price policy of the organisation? Yet this is precisely the position of every member of the Co-operative Movement. Whether his shareholding be £1 or £100 he has the same voting power. Moreover, anyone can join, without any conditions whatever. It is the most democratic institution in the world, and only

requires examination to make an irresistible appeal to any intelligent man or woman.

Making Millions—

According to the latest figures available, there are in England and Wales 5,885,135 co-operators, who are doing a total trade per annum of £200,389,555, with a Share and Loan Capital amounting to £101,996,953, and Reserves amounting to £23,298,105. The Movement provides employment for 230,070 persons, and paid in wages and salaries no less a sum than £30,414,937. The profit or surplus made during 1928 was £24,735,438, which was divided amongst the members in proportion to the amount of trade they transacted.

—But No Millionaires.

That is to say that after paying good wages, good salaries, allowing adequate reserves, contributing to charities, allocating money for education, &c., there was a clear surplus of over £24,000,000. In private trade this might have made twenty-four millionaires. The Co-operative Movement, however, spreads this surplus amongst the people and thus created an effective demand on the home market for an extra £24,000,000 worth of goods. It returns to the customer or member the profits which would otherwise go to a few wealthy people, investors, and the like. It retains in the hands of the consumer all the wealth created by his own trading.

The questions for all readers of this journal are: (1) Are you a member of a Co-operative Society? (2) If so, are you doing the fullest amount of trade possible with the society?

This thing is too good to be missed. From the point of view of economy, from the point of view of trade union principle, from the point of view of democratic control, every worker by hand or brain should belong to the Co-operative Movement and spend as much as ever possible therein. It will enable you to avoid paying interest to rich capitalists, to organise your own shops, factories, &c., and make it impossible for profiteers to make profits out of the people.

Co-operation in Sheffield.

The Co-operative Movement in Sheffield has shown rapid development during the last few years. Last year the total trade of the two societies amounted to £2,620,854, and the Share Capital to £1,028,801. The two societies have now a membership of 97,779.

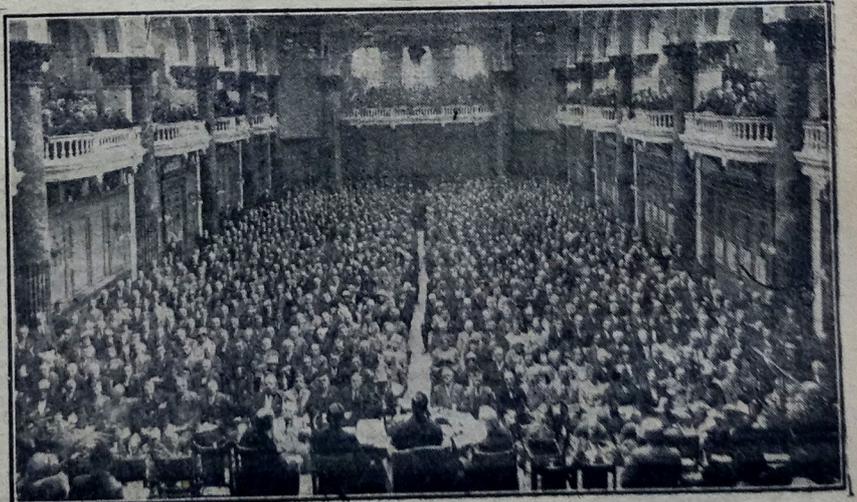
During this trading campaign, the two societies are giving absolutely free membership to all desirous of joining. One of the benefits is free insurance to the husband or wife of any one of the members without paying a farthing except by trading.

The Co-operative Movement helps you to help yourself. It has organised clothing clubs, saving clubs, 3s. clubs. It has established a higher purchase scheme on better conditions and with sounder value than any other firm can possibly offer. It has a penny bank for small savings, a Home Safe system for those who prefer this method. There is no commodity needed in the home that the Co-operative Movement cannot provide.

Our Aim.

The aim of the present campaign is not merely to make new members, but to increase the trade of those who are already registered. If you are not a member, join to-day. Whatever be your position in life. Whether you are a salaried employee, an artisan, or even an unemployed man or woman, you cannot afford to be outside this sound, economic, and progressive Movement. If you are a member now is the time for extra loyalty by spending an increased percentage of your income in the society. The Proprietary Articles Traders' Association and other Traders' Combines are endeavouring to boycott the Movement, and the only way in which we can stand up to these people and develop our own productions is by an increased trade amongst our members. Increased trade means a less percentage of overhead charges, a better organised system in production, a more efficient service, and certainly an increased divisible surplus. To co-operator and non-co-operator alike, we appeal for loyalty to the most successful democratic enterprise this country has ever seen.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PARLIAMENT IN SESSION.



Our picture is from a photograph of a Co-operative Congress—the assembly which directs the policy of the co-operative movement in this country.

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are Shareholders. Profits divided between Labour,
Capital, and Customers. See at your Street for
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AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

BY COUNCILLOR JAMES GILL.

The first meeting of the City Council for 1930, held on January 8th, lasted for about five hours. It was really two meetings in one, the first being a special meeting to consider the

Sheffield Corporation Bill.

The length of any council meeting is always determined by the vital issues discussed, but more especially upon the party flavour imparted. In this meeting party issues were very prominent. In the preliminary meeting the opposition saw their sacred privileges being attacked and they were roused with a vengeance. Nothing touches them so much as fancied attacks upon their dear old privileges and monopolies. They bristle up and fight with all the fanaticism of Jesuits. The Bill, with its preamble, embraces thirty-three clauses, the major portion referring to the new reservoir to be constructed at Burbage.

Municipal versus Private Trade.

Part III., however, embraces proposals to erect a new omnibus station or stations, together with the equipment of the same. Sub-Clause 3 provides for the sale of petrol for any motor omnibus using the station, and the supply of refreshments to any passengers alighting or waiting for a bus.

With regard to the proposed supply of petrol, it would be an anomaly that petrol could be supplied to our own motor buses, while an application on behalf of a London, Manchester, or Newcastle bus would have to be refused.

Night Club Visions.

The opposition, backed by the whole force of private trade interests, stoutly attacked the proposal, as they did also the intention to provide refreshments. The pervid imagination of certain critics actually see visions of "Municipal Night Clubs" in these very innocent and reasonable proposals. However, on a strictly party vote, the amendment to delete Clause 25 was defeated by fifty-nine to twenty-eight.

They have since returned to the attack, however, and in a packed meeting at the Town Hall, where they drummed up their supporters with commendable zeal, reversed the Council's decision.

King Edward VII. Memorial Hospital.

Then followed a discussion on Clause 29 of the Bill, which proposed to use King Edward VII. Memorial Hospital in Rivelin Valley "for the reception, maintenance, treatment, and education of children and young persons of both sexes, who should be suffering from physical disability, or infirmity resulting from tuberculosis."

Councillor S. Osborn, to whom no one is listened to with more respect, opposed the proposal, though, apparently, inconsistently, in that he stated that "when first established they were advised to confine the use of the hospital to complaints of the bones and joints, which resulted from tuberculosis." Yet this is the very purpose of the clause with slightly wider interpretation. He further contended, as did Dr. Froggatt, in an interesting, but wide of the mark dissertation, that there was a danger of infecting non-T. B. cases with tuberculosis. Alderman Stephenson also contended that orthopaedic cases could be better dealt with in orthopaedic hospitals than in an institution which specialised in T.B. cases.

Councillor Asbury, in reply, said that Sir George Newman (Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health, and the Board of Education) had expressed his agreement with the proposed change, as did other medical experts and the clause was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

More Bogies.

The only other opposition to the Bill was with regard to a clause empowering the Corporation "to accept, hold, and administer, any gift of property for any purpose connected with the city. Alderman Graves, at the December meeting, had given the clause his blessing, but in spite of this, Councillor Die-hard-and-Die-in-the-last-Ditch Unwin must ex-

press his protest. He saw another imaginary evil—the possibility of interfering with existing charities. What vivid imaginations some of these fellows have to be sure! They see hobgoblins, or as Jack Hartley would say, "Bogwarts-i-th-hole" in every proposal of the Co-operative and Labour Party, no matter how well-intentioned the purpose may be.

Ordinary Council Meeting.

Coming to the ordinary Council meeting, the first item to be questioned arose on the minutes of the Tramways Committee. The committee proposed to remove an anomaly with regard to annual holidays. Some employees in the department were allowed only eight days' holiday, while others were allowed twelve days, and the proposal was to make holidays uniform. Alderman Bailey had no difficulty in explaining that their proposal was to bring all within the proposal of the Whitley Council, though the fact that it was to cost more was enough to rouse the opposition of Councillor Turner.

Removing the "Pauper" Taint.

Something like a full-dress debate was occasioned by the opposition of Councillor A. Neal to the conversion of the Nether Edge and a large portion of the Fir Vale Hospital into general hospitals, as had been done in Bradford.

Councillor Neal made a great point of the fact that the Act of 1929 does not break up the Poor-Law. Destitution still demands immediate medical attention, and Councillor Neal falls a prey to hallucinations of the imagination as so many others had done. He sees the needy poor kept out of general hospitals and kept on a "waiting list." He is dreadfully concerned with the possibility of Poor-Law and non-Poor-Law patients lying side by side in the General Hospital, and he lifts up his hands in holy horror at what he calls the "repulsive possibility of class distinctions." In the hallucination into which his excited imagination has led him, he sees one bed labelled "poor" and an adjoining bed labelled "Not Poor." Poor fellow! He does not see that the main object of the move is just to prevent the very discrimination that he so much fears. There may be what he might call a "pauper" lying in a bed adjoining a contributory patient, but no one will know unless it be the doctor or nurse. Thus far are we travelling in the direction of the abolition of the Poor-Law taint which has been the bane of the bad system which is passing.

Alderman Jackson "Window Dressing."

Another full-dress discussion arose out of an artful proposal and a fine bit of window-dressing on the part of Alderman H. W. Jackson. His resolution deplored housing shortage, and overcrowding, and proceeded to state that practically nothing had been done for families with limited incomes, and that only a small proportion of the houses provided by the Corporation are let at rents within the means of weekly wage earners. This is a very subtle form of attack. Here is the party which has again and again attacked the Co-operative and Labour Party's policy on housing, parading as the beneficent supporter of a housing policy for the poor. Alderman Jackson made a slight joke about the housing policy of his poor effete Liberal Party. He quoted Sir Tudor Walters that houses could be built for £358.

Alderman Jackson knows as well as any that cheaper houses can be built in one or two ways: (1) By putting in cheaper foundations, cheaper damp courses, and using cheaper materials generally; (2) by cutting down the space and the amenities, but the Labour Party are going to do neither of these things. The way of meeting the subtle proposal of the polygot party was as adroit as their own. The Labour Party has tacticians also, and guile must be met with guile. Alderman Rowlinson took the wind out of their sails by proposing an amendment: "Having regard to the intention of the Ministry of Health to introduce a new

[Continued at foot of next column.]

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES ACT.

THE new charter seeks to give co-operators the right to hold a maximum of £400 share capital in a maximum of £200, which is the present limit. There would, therefore, be an opportunity for co-operators to obtain savings in their co-operative stores in view of recent financial stress, and many people would gladly avail themselves of a safe and useful investment of this character.

In addition to the fresh facilities for co-operative investment, the new Bill seeks to widen the operations of post office bank departments of co-operative societies by permitting maximum savings deposits of £1, instead of 10s. at present, and by allowing depositors to have a total credit of £50 in their savings bank account instead of the present maximum of £20.

SAFEGUARDING THE CO-OPERATIVE TITLE.

THE stability and probity of co-operative societies, their promptness in paying accounts, and their high reputation for value are well known in commercial circles, and one is not surprised to find that unscrupulous traders have sometimes sought to mislead the public into the belief that their firms were co-operative in structure and intent. The last Companies' Act limited provisions was made for the possible restriction of the use of the word "Co-operative" to some such similar title in the name of new companies, but in the new co-operative charter definite conditions are laid down to be observed by societies which desire to register under the title "Co-operative."

Whenever possible in the Bill, provisions are laid down to protect the name of co-operative societies.

Other important provisions of a technical nature are included in the Bill, which may be described as, the co-operative new charter.

CONSERVATIVE PRAISE FOR CO-OPERATIVE M.P.s.

SOME co-operators still doubt the necessity for direct representation of the movement in Parliament through the Co-operative Party. The retail competitors of societies, however, have no doubt about the value of Parliamentary representation, and sometime at the gatherings one obtains a frank admission of the value of the work of the Co-operative M.P.s which is all the more striking because it comes from a party disinterested source.

Mr. W. J. Womersley, the Conservative M.P. for Grimsby, speaking in Parliament and the Retail Trades, at a meeting arranged by the Domestic Chamber of Trade last month, said that co-operative societies were fully alive to the need of direct representation, and that representatives did their job well.

He was urging the necessity for representation of the retail trader in the House of Commons.

This tribute to the value of the work of the Co-operative M.P.s at a meeting of competitive traders should do much to convince co-operators, not only of the vital necessity for their being directly represented at Westminster, but also of the determination of retail traders to use the political weapon whenever possible.

[Continued from previous column.]

Housing Bill at an early date, and the representatives of the Council were now engaged in negotiations with the Ministry as to the financial terms to be provided by the Bill, the question raised in the foregoing motion being deferred until the passing of the proposed legislation, following which the Alderman Committee be instructed to prepare a detailed report with regard to the full powers to meet the housing requirements of the city."

This amendment was carried by forty-one votes to sixteen, and ended five hours of closely contested debate with distinct honours to the Co-operative and Labour Party.

The Natural way to good health



Life is full of events just now. You have your parties, your dances, so many rich things to eat—you must give a thought to health once in the day.

Let your breakfast, then, be simple, plain, and healthful. Begin each day with Shredded Wheat. As you go about your work and pleasure afterwards, you will enjoy the fine sense of well-being that comes from the regular use of this wholesome food. You will enjoy festivities more when you enjoy good health. And why shouldn't you? Shredded Wheat is whole wheat, carefully cleaned, "shredded" and baked golden to an inviting crispness. To have some every day, is the natural way to health. Give it a good run and see.

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COMMENCES, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 1930

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It should be noted that the prices quoted do not permit of obtaining repeats at these prices.

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Ecclesall and Cemetery Roads

With acknowledgments to "The New Leader."

WHAT ABOUT THE WORK-SHIES?

A CHALLENGE TO MR. GARVIN.

BY FRED HENDERSON.

SINCE the success of the Labour Party in the House of Commons in securing from the Government the complete amendment of the "genuinely seeking work" clause of the Unemployment Insurance Bill, the capitalist voices, Press and platform, have had a good deal to say about work-shyness and work-dodging.

What we have done, they tell us, is to wipe out all inducement for the unemployed man to seek work. Mr. Garvin, in the "Observer," describes it as "provision for the passive and impotent maintenance of unemployment"; and trounces the Government for yielding to the pressure of the trade unions for the removal of the spur to work-seeking which that clause was supposed to put into the administration of unemployment insurance.

The Ravenous Scramble.

It will repay us to look a little closely into this charge of "encouraging the work-shy"; for the moment you begin really to scrutinise it instead of repeating the current clap-trap about it, you come directly and penetratively to an understanding of certain fundamentals about the working of capitalism.

It may be granted, to begin with, that if a job becomes vacant for a man in a locality where a hundred unemployed men are out of a job, the one who can pounce on it most promptly, the one most sleepless in seeking work, stands a better chance of getting it than the one who sits at home and waits for the job to come to him. But it does not follow that, if all of them were equally prompt and alert, they would all get the job. It remains a job for one man; and the ninety-nine rejected, so far as any reward for their promptness is concerned, might just as well have sat at home and waited.

The unemployment problem is not a problem of work remaining undone because men do not seek the opportunity of doing it. As a matter of plain fact and experience, the typical case is that at least ninety out of the hundred men will be ravenously scrambling for the job the moment it is known that a man is wanted.

Where is the Work?

Where are the factories standing idle or working short time, with orders booked and work to be done, because of a shortage of available labour? Let Mr. Garvin discover any such case and announce it, anywhere between the Channel and John o' Groat's, and within the day he will be snowed under with as many applicants for the work as would set all the wheels going a hundred times over. There is no known vacancy anywhere which is not promptly filled; hardly a known vacancy anywhere that does not leave at least a hundred men disappointed at their rejection for it.

The root fact of the matter is that the unemployed at any given moment are the surplus of actually unwanted labour. That this surplus includes a certain number of discouraged and broken men who have ceased looking for work with any zeal is true enough; but it is not true—only in the rarest cases of mental or physical defectiveness is it true—that they are in the surplus because they are without zeal for work. They are without zeal for work because they have been in the surplus long enough to be broken by it.

The Daily Disappointed.

The man who has got to the listless stage of sitting at home or lounging in the market place is, in almost every case, a man who has passed through a long period of earnest search for work, with daily disappointments, and loss of fitness and of spirit; and in the end has become discouraged. The marvel is not that there are so many of them, but that there are so few in proportion to the vast army of the unwanted surplus.

So far as the general problem of unemployment is concerned, all these gibes about work-shyness are foolishly irrelevant. Those who utter them know perfectly well that if every unemployed man and woman were to begin "genuinely seeking work" with all the energy of which human eagerness is capable, and were to keep it up week in and week out without relaxation, not a single additional job would be created, nor would the unwanted surplus of labour be reduced by a single individual. The competition would be a bit more wolfish; the strain and the horror of it would be intensified; this or that job might be obtained by this instead of that one amongst the scramblers for it; but in its effect upon the actual demand for labour the result would be precisely nothing.

Messrs. Garvin and Co., when they talk in that way, contribute nothing practical towards any possible solution of the problem of how to order and arrange the world's work for the world's happiness and well-being; they are only mouthing what they no doubt believe to be a justifiable moral indignation, in complete detachment from all the practical facts and bearings of the problem.

A Wanted Surplus.

And that leads us to the most important point of all. There is a thoroughly justifiable moral indignation to be expressed in this matter. But it is completely misdirected when it is directed against the man who has been demoralised by the savaging of his life as a wage-earner under capitalism. For this unwanted surplus of labour is, in a sense, vital to capitalism, a wanted surplus; wanted, that is to say, not as labour, but as a surplus. Without its existence, capitalism would fall to pieces.

Capitalism, being the gamble it is for private profit, is hopelessly irregular and spasmodic in its conduct of the world's work. It produces feverishly in its competitive way; finds it has produced beyond the market; and then slackens production till its stocks are worked off.

This lunacy of regarding production as a gamble for private gain makes the demand for labour fluctuate violently. It is essential to capitalism to have a reserve of unemployed labour into which to dip if and when the gamble makes for expanding production. With labour fully employed under low or average conditions of production, the game would be up for capitalism.

Whose is the Blame?

The value of having the unwanted surplus in existence as a means of keeping employed labour well to heel is obvious to every man who lives by selling his labour and knows that there are plenty of others to take his place if he should dare to grumble. And with such a surplus as a standing part of the equipment of capitalism, it is inevitable that a certain proportion of the men doomed to be in the surplus should sink and sink into demoralisation.

Where does the blame lie? With the victim or with the class which profits by the system that makes the victim what he is? To me, at any rate, the most putrid thing about capitalism is this show of high moral indignation against its victims for being what the necessities of capitalism have made them.

The demoralised, dirty, work-shy, degraded man in the pit of chronic unemployment and, finally, unfitness for employment, appeals to me as the great martyr of our times. For underneath and within his dirt and demoralisation I see the decent man, the good father and home-maker and citizen that might have been if Mr. Garvin's clients, the capitalist interests of the world, had not got their claws into him and mangled his life out of all semblance to what a decent human life should and might be. And will be, so soon as we learn sense about it all.

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CITIZENS' PARTY AND HOUSING.

COUNCILLOR W. G. ROBINSON'S VIGOROUS REPLY.

COUNCILLOR W. G. ROBINSON, addressing the Hillsborough Co-operative Party members recently took the opportunity of replying to Alderman Jackson who had moved a resolution in the City Council on the matter of Housing. At the January meeting of the Council Alderman Jackson had moved a resolution intimating:—

(a) That there remains a serious shortage of proper housing accommodation in the city.

(b) That overcrowding exists on a large scale.

(c) That practically nothing has been done for the families with limited incomes.

(d) That only a small proportion of the houses provided by the Corporation are let at rents within the means of weekly wage-earners.

Liberal and Tory Neglect.

This state of affairs was, said Councillor Robinson, the inevitable result of private enterprise, and in reply to (a) and (b) showed that shortage of houses and overcrowding were only part of the system Alderman Jackson and his party defend. The shortage has been accumulating for many years because private enterprise cannot now build houses at a profit, and arising out of their failure the municipality had to step in. After all, Labour had only been in power three years, and could not be expected to have wiped out the festering slums in that short time; although the Labour Party had built 1,000 houses each year during their period of office. The Citizens' Party must take the responsibility of any shortage at the present time for they had had a fine estate, and a splendid opportunity of developing same when houses were only half the cost of the present time. Then also was the time when the slum areas ought to have been cleared. After describing some of the wretched overcrowding conditions that obtained to-day he demonstrated that the responsibility for these conditions could not be laid at the door of the party who had been pressing in every possible way for new housing schemes and authority for the demolition of slums.

"Limited Incomes."

In reply to (c) and (d) Councillor Robinson said he had every sympathy with those who were not able to pay the rents asked for on the municipal housing schemes, but that had always been the contention of the Labour Party that lower wages were no real economy and that the remedy was for higher wages to obtain. He personally would never advocate long rows of houses about seventy to the acre in the hope of fixing low rents. So far from fixing house rents to meet limited incomes the Labour Party were endeavouring to increase incomes to meet house rents for houses of a decent character.

The Modern House.

The Labour and Co-operative Party have built according to the times, and according to the requirements of the modern housewife who desires (and rightly so) labour-saving in the home. Workers to-day demand that every house shall have a fully-equipped bathroom, with hot and cold water available in the bathroom and the kitchen. They demand a garden and open space in the vicinity for the children, and consequently houses are built twelve to the acre instead of sixty or seventy as heretofore. He was not there to apologise for Labour's policy. They could demonstrate at Longley and the Wisewood Estates the difference in policy and outlook between the Labour Party and the Citizens' Party. The artistic elevations and the better specifications of the houses on the Longley and Wisewood Estates as compared with the houses on the Manor Estate was a striking example of the difference in outlook between the two parties. Moreover, £427 each, the average price at present on the new estates was £378—and these

cheaper houses were at least £70 better in value because of the more substantial work and better quality materials used.

Rents and Cost.

Alderman Jackson had contended that the rents were too high but Councillor Robinson examined these in the light of his own experience. For houses on the Manor, Ridgeway, and Wisewood Estates the rates of the three-bedroom type, inclusive rent of 12s. 11d. per week was charged; two-bedroom type 10s. 9d. When these rents, which included rates, were compared with working-class houses in the Attercliffe district—in many cases without baths and no hot water, no gardens, very little back yard space, dark kitchens, and altogether unhealthy surroundings—they compared very favourably. He estimated that the average for houses of that kind were about 12s., whilst the rent on the Ridgeway Estate for a really good type of house was only 12s. 11d. So that it would appear that all the advantages of a better environment, of an infinitely better type of house, of greater facilities for the housewife, were obtained for the difference of 11d. per week.

There was the further point that housing costs were high because of the burden of interest. To reduce housing costs by cutting specifications was a perfectly absurd proposition that Labour would not stand for. If the cost was cut down by £50 this would mean less than 1s. per week in the rent, and perhaps make it possible to build houses without baths or hot water. This was the last thing the Labour Party would endeavour to do.

Wybourne Estate.

This estate was built specifically for those de-housed through slum clearances. On investigation he (Councillor Robinson) had discovered that the average rent these people paid prior to taking up residence on the Wybourne Estate was about 7s. per week. Now, for three bedroom-type house they were paying 10s. 8d. including rates, and for two bedroom type 9s. 1d. The average cost of these houses is £330 each—£52 10s. for sewerage and street work, and £15 5s. for land, making a total of £397 15s. Interest on £400 loan at 5 per cent. equals £20 per year, or 7s. 8d. per week per house.

Therein lies the real reason for rents being at their present figure. The loss on the Wybourne Housing Estate now amounts to £3,506 per annum, half of which is paid by the Government and the other half by the ratepayers. The loss on all our housing schemes for the year ending March, 1920, was £28,000, or a 2½d. rate.

Councillor Neal advocates building flats on the slum-cleared sites, but the Labour Party were of opinion that self-contained house with garden, &c., was far more satisfactory, and they were continuing the policy of housing the people outside the smoke belt, and improving transport facilities to enable these people to get to their work cheaply and expeditiously.

A Political Stunt.

In short, Alderman Jackson's plea was a mere stunt, and was in fact a condemnation of the past failure of the Council when Liberals and Conservatives have been in control separately and in Coalition right up to 1920.

From Aberdeen.

A Scotsman was entertaining a guest in the night. The evening was spent in weighty conversation, no offer of liquid refreshment being made.
About 10-30 p.m. the host said suddenly: "Now, how about a wee deuch-an-doch, eh?"
The guest rubbed his hands and chuckled. "Splendid!" So the host, smiling broadly, rose and put Sir Harry Lauder's celebrated song record on the gramophone!

The Only Thing to Say.

He: "But darling, did you tell your father my love was like an impetuous flood?"
She: "Oh, yes."
He: "What did he say to that?"
She: "Dum it!"

YOUTH—AND YOU—IN CO-OPERATION.

There is a Junior Co-operative Party in Sheffield.

How many adult co-operators (even in Sheffield) are aware of this fact?

And how many, being aware, are interested?

This article (written by a member of the party) is intended to catch the eye—and remain in the memory—of anyone who is interested, whether he (or she) be adult or adolescent.

In the summer of 1928 a meeting was held at the Montgomery Hall to elect officials and a committee for the then newly-formed Young Co-operative Party of Sheffield. It was attended by interested members of the local senior party, including its president and secretary, and by a large number of young co-operators. It was full of promise.

During the two winters between then and now, meetings have been held once weekly at the Church House, St. James' street, and they continue to be held, commencing at 7.30. Lectures on various subjects coming under the general heading of "Citizenship," are given fortnightly, by that master of the subject, Mr. J. H. Bingham. The remaining nights are spent in the study of a great variety of subjects by means of (sometimes lantern) lectures (by local celebrities and young nonentities), readings, and debates. In view of the quality of the programme—both in interest and instruction, enjoyment and elevation—the writer of these notes is amazed at the lack of desire on the part of so many young people to take advantage of it. Social events have also been arranged, taking the form of socials, dances, and rambles. During last summer visits to local places of interest were well attended, a quota for one local newspaper office being made up to the exclusion of several members; another place visited was the Brightside and Carbrook dairy at Broughton-lane.

The campaign of the present First Lord of the Admiralty (the Right Hon.

A. V. Alexander, M.P.) in the last general election was considerably assisted by junior party stalwarts, in the rôle of speakers and canvassers. They have also contributed to municipal successes.

A good beginning has been made by the young people who are expected to carry co-operation's political banner when those now doing so begin to stumble. If their success is to continue and their number to increase with each year, members of the adult movement must recognise the Junior Party's importance. They must refer to it in their addresses and at their meetings; they must bring it to the knowledge of their sons and daughters and other young friends; they must nurture it as those sons and daughters have been nurtured. And their reward will be in the success of their successors.

Members of circles and guilds can find much to do in the Junior Co-operative Party to further their cause—and they should all be interested members if they believe in co-operative political action (which, surely, they all do).

Membership is open to co-operators between the ages of eighteen and thirty years. The subscription is 1s. per annum, and the secretary is Miss Winnie E. Case, 27, Hunter Hill-road, Sheffield. Verb. sap.!

H. W.

A Tender Spot.

"William the Conqueror," the boy wrote, "met the death he richly deserved. For when he was destroying by fire a town in the North of France he was struck by an arrow in his feudal system—from which, being a corpulent man, he never recovered."

The Difference.

Granddaughter (being lectured): "I seem to have heard that the girls of your period 'set their caps' at men."

Disapproving Grandmother: "But not their knee-caps."

Shakespeare in Modern Press.

Teacher (reading from Shakespeare): "Sometimes from her eyes I did receive fair speechless messages." Now, Tommy, I want you to tell me, in your own words, exactly what that means."

Tommy: "Please, miss, it means that she kept on giving him the glad eye."

The Sheffield Co-operator.

FEBRUARY, 1930.

From the "Co-operative News."

WILL PRUDENCE SUCCEED NEMESIS?

Time revelations in the notorious Hatry case gave us the impression that swindling is a much easier thing than we have thought it to be.

It was—strange though it may seem—possible for Hatry and his associates to collect £780,000 on bogus certificates for corporation stock and to purloin £822,000 of money obtained by the sale of genuine stock—and all in a very short time. In addition, three of the defendants in the case realised £700,000 through improper dealing in the shares of two other companies.

Hatry admitted that he was the head and front of the offences, and the reports of the skilled accountant who had examined the affairs of the whole Hatry group of companies showed the gross liabilities of the companies at £29,500,000, with a deficiency of £13,500,000.

The sentences, ranging from fourteen years' penal servitude to three years, imposed upon the four men, show that the way of transgressors is still hard when they have been proved to be transgressors; but blank amazement filled most people who read the details of the case and saw how easy the way of the transgressors had been till Nemesis got them by the heels.

What is the man in the street to think of such money-making? And what is the man in the street to think of the whole financial system which makes such things possible?

The curtain has been rung down at the Old Bailey; but the next part of the programme is about to open. There will follow now the procession of bankruptcies.

What these proceedings will disclose can only be surmised, but it is certain that ruin will fall in homes occupied by simple, trusting people, if it has not already fallen here. The honest, simple folks who thought that fortune-making was easy when entrusted to the Napoleons of finance have had another lesson. They have been taught that there is no real reward without labour; and the four unfortunates who misled them have no doubt begun to realise already that, after all, honesty is the best policy.

We doubt if the penalties imposed upon them will stem the tide of fraud. There will be others, fired with the same vanity and the same greed, who will no doubt weigh up all the details of this shocking case and lay their fingers on the particular stupidity which brought about the fall of Hatry. They will be wiser after the event than he was before it; and in their foolhardiness, they will set out to make their fortunes, too, regardless of the loss to others and forgetful of the Nemesis who always strikes. They will fall; but they will have their victims, too.

We have commented here before now upon the need for some guarantee of security for the trusting, and we shall be surprised if, before he demits office, Mr. Snowden does not find some means of tightening the screws of the financial machine so that such operations as Hatry and his tools have engaged in may be made impossible.

Forgery is to the financial life what poison is to the corporeal life. It is especially vile when employed to foul the record of municipal finance; and we see no reason why corporate bodies, like municipal councils, should not be freed from the danger of fraud by having a State department to safeguard them when they require loans for the financing of public services, instead of their having to tap polluted wells.

"OUR CIRCLE"

MONTHLY - ONE PENNY

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

Published by the National Co-operative Publishing Society, Limited, 22, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

HOW MR. CHURCHILL PLUNDERED THE EXCHEQUER LARDER.

LEFT BARE SHELVES FOR MR. SNOWDEN TO TAKE OVER.

ON the last day of the last session of Parliament, Mr. Philip Snowden made an incisive reply to Mr. Churchill's strictures. The following day the "Daily Mail" admitted in a leading article that Mr. Snowden's castigation was well deserved.

The "Daily Mail" said—
"Mr. Snowden's counter-attack on Tuesday against Mr. Winston Churchill's criticisms of his policy as Chancellor of the Exchequer was not only a brilliant retort to the most formidable debater on the Conservative side, but a detailed and damaging exposure of the reckless extravagance of the last administration."

In the unsuccessful attempt to bribe its way back to office the Conservative Government squandered the scanty reserves of our national Exchequer. The Treasury that it handed over to its successors was one of bare cupboards, plundered shelves, and empty boxes.

"Half-an-hour of plain talk by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer was unfortunately enough to reveal such a state of disarray and disorder in our national affairs as completely justifies his claim that much of the financial confusion of the Socialists is inherited from their predecessors."

The Conservative Government took everything it could lay its hands on. It raided the Road Fund for £20,000,000. It stunted the Sinking Fund of £60,000,000, and it treated as current revenue £13,000,000 which by right belonged to the Currency Reserve Fund. Moreover, it shielded as far as possible from public knowledge the fact that there had been an addition to the Government's expenditure of well over £30,000,000 during its term of office in respect of unemployment insurance. The stratagem by which it concealed the increased liability was to treat this entirely irrecoverable amount as a loan to the insurance fund."

What a confirmation of Mr. Snowden's declaration that "Mr. Churchill's policy has always been that of the prodigal taking no thought for the morrow." . . . Mr. Churchill's financial methods have been such that had his Budgets been company balance sheets he would have found himself in the dock."

Readers of the "Sheffield Co-operator" would be well advised to preserve this excerpt from the "Daily Mail's" onslaught.

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How? She shopped at the Co-operative Stores. Her dividend mounted up. It earned interest. And now she has £30 in the Stores without having banked a penny.

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Husbands is it worth it?

FATAL FALL FROM TABLE.

WOMAN'S ACCIDENT WHILE
WHITEWASHING.

A fall from a table while whitewashing was the initial cause of the death of — who died in the — Hospital from injuries to the chest, and pneumonia.

AND

Recently a charwoman employed papering a staircase fell and broke both her ankles. The employer has been made liable for compensation.

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MAY WE QUOTE YOU FOR
Interior and Exterior
DECORATIONS?

28, CEMETERY ROAD.

Very Kind of Him.

Wife: "What's a turf commission agent, dear? You dropped a card belonging to one on the bedroom floor this morning."

Husband: "That was careless. I—er—intended it to be a surprise for you. You were complaining about the lawn, you know, so I decided to get it returned."

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

Brightside.

The Brightside Co-operative Party held their annual divisional meeting at the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute on January 15th. There was a good attendance of members and quite a large number of recruits joined under the new voluntary membership scheme. Officers and delegates for 1930 were appointed. The secretary is Mr. W. A. Walton, 388, Windmill-lane, Shiregreen.

It is intended to hold more meetings in different parts of the division to meet the needs of the Grimsthorpe, Brightside, and Burngreave sections as well as our Shiregreen friends.

Hillsborough.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party held their annual meeting in the guild-room on January 20th, when the annual report and balance sheet was considered. Reports of delegates to Central Council and Central Executive, election of officers, review of the year's work, and method of organisation for the future were dealt with. Report showed that, in spite of heavy work—including the Parliamentary election, municipal, and by-elections—an increased membership had been recorded. Although the local fund had been drawn on heavily for social purposes there was a slight increase in the balance in hand over the previous year. Officers for 1930 included: President, Mr. A. Wallis; vice-president, Mr. W. Slack; secretary, Mr. F. L. Dunn, 19, Oakland-road. Representatives for other committees were also appointed, and the various sub-committees were fixed up in accordance with the constitution.

The Women's Section of the party held their annual meeting in the afternoon of the same day, when Mrs. M. Brooke was appointed president; Mrs. E. Thompson, vice-president; and Mrs. R. Wood, 13, Hillsborough-place, was appointed secretary.

The party is aiming at doubling its membership during the present year. Applications for membership can be made either to the party office, 17, Bank-street, or at either of the secretaries' addresses as above. Meetings are held in the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute (guild-room), as follows: The Women's Section every Monday afternoon, at 2-45 p.m.; weekly party meetings—including play-readings, lectures, council reports, &c.—at 7-45, on Monday

evenings. It has been decided to hold the party meetings on Thursday evenings during the next session.

Neepsend.

The Neepsend Ward Committee held their annual meeting in the Neepsend Institute on January 15th, when Mr. J. Greenfield was appointed president; Mr. J. H. Allen, vice-president; and Mr. L. Baines, secretary. The new voluntary membership was adopted, and members are now coming in very satisfactorily. The Women's Section continues to progress. Meetings are held every Monday afternoon, at 2-45 p.m., in the Institute. Secretary: Mrs. Justice, 126, Wallace-road, Parkwood Springs.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Women's Section Successful Year.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Women's Section held a very enjoyable tea and concert in the Mount Tabor Schoolroom, on January 20th. Over fifty members sat down to tea. After tea a good audience attended the concert, during which the president explained the objects of the Women's Section, and gave a hearty invitation to the women present to join up. The section has had a very successful year during 1929. In addition to the papers given by members and outside speakers, councillors have attended and given detailed lectures on the various Corporation departments. The monthly "Notes" supplied by the Co-operative Party have also been used as the basis for discussion on co-operative political policy. During the general and municipal elections the section played no small part in securing success for the Co-operative and Labour candidates. One of the members of the section is now on the City Council as a Labour representative.

The annual excursion to Chester by charabancs was a huge success. The members congratulated the National Co-operative Party on their success at the general election, having secured the election of 75 per cent. of candidates put forward. The section is also anxious to see a co-operative woman representative in the House of Commons, and urges both the local and national committee to do all that is possible to secure a likely seat for a co-operative representative, believing that a co-operator could best represent the interest of the working-class housewife.

The officers appointed for 1930 are: President, Mrs. C. Jones; vice-president, Mrs. J. Burton; and secretary, Mrs. J. Billam, 29, Mitchell-street. Meetings are held weekly at the Mount Tabor Schoolroom, Wellington-street, on Thursdays, at 2-45 p.m.

Ecclesall Section.

The Ecclesall Divisional Party held their annual meeting on Monday, January 27th, when Mr. E. Billam was appointed president; Mr. C. King, vice-president; and Mr. G. H. Green, 17, Slate-street, secretary. Monthly meetings are held in the Cemetery-road Co-operative Guild-room, on Monday evenings.

The Hillsborough Labour Party had a successful dance in the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute, on Thursday, January 10th. We understand that two other dances have been arranged on Thursday, February 20th and March 20th. Tickets may be obtained from the secretary: Mr. A. Meeke, 37, Carnarvon-street.

The Vadsley Bridge Labour Party have elected Mr. C. H. Bolton, 11, Gillott-road, as secretary. Meetings and social gatherings are being arranged, the first of which will take the form of a dance, to be held at the Hillsborough Park Cinema, on Thursday, February 13th.

Southey and Norwood Estates.

The co-operators on the Southey and Norwood Estates have lost no time in fixing up a political organisation since the opening of the new institute. The officers elected are: President, Alderman F. Womersley; vice-president, Mr.

Fryer; and secretary, Mr. C. Johnson, 76, Everingham-crescent, Southey, Women's Section: President, Mrs. Womersley; secretary, Mrs. A. Allen, 6, Everingham-road, Southey.

Women's Section meetings are held every Monday afternoon at 2-45 p.m. Party meetings are held every Wednesday, at 7-30 p.m.

The aldermen and councillors representing the Neepsend Ward will be pleased to meet Southey and Norwood residents at the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue, on alternate Wednesdays, commencing February 5th, from 6-30 to 7-30 p.m., where representations upon matters affecting the society and in connection with City Council work will receive attention.

"The Co-operative Ramblers' Annual Handbook and Syllabus" for 1930 is now on sale, and may be obtained from the party office, 17, Bank-street, price 1s. (including membership). Rambles are arranged for every month in the year.

Co-operative Party National Conference.

The annual conference of the National Co-operative Party will be held at Buxton, at Easter. The Sheffield Co-operative Party have appointed a sub-committee to examine annual report and to make any suggestions of resolutions or amendments to be submitted to the conference. Speakers at the party's demonstration are to be Mr. A. Barnes, M.P. (chairman), the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., Mr. H. M. Gibson, M.P., Mr. Geo. Riddle (C.W.S. director), and Mrs. McNair, O.B.E. (national secretary of the Scottish Women's Guild).

Delegates will be appointed from the various divisions from the Central Party and from the two boards of management in Sheffield. Any constituent body of the Sheffield Party may submit resolutions or suggestions for consideration by the special sub-committee with a view to discussion by the National conference.

Mrs. Hewison (president of the National Women's Guild) is to visit Sheffield on February 13th to address a meeting under the auspices of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Guilds' Federation.

Brightside and Carbrook Guilds' Federation.

We have received a copy of the Brightside and Carbrook Guilds' Federation report for the past year. Twelve meetings have been held, and a 90 per cent. attendance of delegates recorded. The principal function of the federation is that of co-ordinating the work of the educational committee, the guilds, and the society generally. The report shows the opening of three additional guilds in the society's area—a Men's Guild on the Manor Estate, and a Women's Guild and a Men's Guild on the Southey Estate.

The one-day school held at Castleton in the summer was a great success, when the matter of the amalgamation of the two Sheffield co-operative societies was under discussion. In order to further its consummation a joint committee has been set up comprising representatives from the guilds of the two societies. Already essays have been written on this subject, and prizes given by the Brightside and Carbrook educational committee. The Sheffield and Ecclesall Federation also purpose a similar scheme. The Brightside and Carbrook Federation report organised visits to the new Fire Station and the University. In the same report tribute is paid to the custodians of the sick-room appliances, who carry out this beneficent work voluntarily throughout the year, and take responsibility for the general cleanliness and sterilisation of the appliances. Payments made in connection with these appliances are used exclusively for renewals, and the whole of the work in connection with the scheme is carried out voluntarily. The secretary asks that a special appeal should be made to the people making use of these utensils to send them back to time, and thoroughly clean, in order to lighten this voluntary work as far as possible.

The Federation also assisted very considerably in the success of the annual guild rally, held at the Cutlers' Hall, on Thursday, January 23rd.

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WE REPAIR SHOES—MAY WE DO YOURS?

A NEW CHARTER.

FOR a long time the Co-operative Union has been endeavouring to improve the legal conditions under which co-operative societies operate. The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts which provide for the registration and status of co-operative societies probably met the requirements of the last generation, but co-operative development during the last decade has been remarkable, and for some time it has been apparent that in many directions the co-operative movement was constricted in many important functions by out-of-date legal provisions of the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. There is, in fact, urgent need for a new charter.

Thanks to the activities of the Co-operative Union, its Parliamentary Committee, and the Co-operative Party, such a new charter has now been introduced to Parliament in the form of the Industrial and Provident Societies Amendment Bill, which, if carried by both Houses of Parliament, will provide co-operators with extended facilities for trade and investment, as well as giving much-needed safeguards against the misuse of the co-operative title. The Bill is introduced by Mr. David Grenfell, M.P., and supported by all the Co-operative Members of Parliament and three Labour members, viz.: Messrs. Alfred Barnes, S. F. Perry, Robert Morrison, Thomas Henderson, William Hirst, D. Chater, R. Gibson, F. Longden, Lees, Mrs. Hamilton, and Professor Noel Baker.

SLATE CLUBS.

AFTER every Christmas and New Year the story is retold in dozens of police courts of defaulting or absconding officials or promoters of slate clubs. Poor people save their pennies and shillings for the holiday season, only to find that one of their number has played false to the trust reposed in him. A Bill, introduced in Parliament, is framed with a view to protecting poor people against such defalcations. Whether it will pass into law is doubtful, but fortunately an easier and immediate remedy exists to safeguard savings.

The co-operative society provides an alternative method of saving with all the advantages of slate clubs, and with the absolute security that such a club can never give. The easily operated share capital and penny bank facilities are admirable aids to Christmas thrift; but in addition many societies offer a wide range of saving methods in the form of Christmas clubs, stamp clubs, mutuality clubs, and in every case one can truthfully claim that co-operative clubs are as "safe as the Bank of England." The moral is clear: "Keep your savings in your own society."

FINANCIAL CRASHES.

THE number of spectacular financial failures in England and America, widely reported in the public Press, should do much to make co-operators thankful that their savings are not subject to the illusory booms and devastating crashes of the stock market. Financial juggling will never advance the standard of life of the people. All that it is likely to do is to make some capitalist richer at the expense of industry and the large masses of poor speculators and workers poorer.

It is time to realise that only through the co-operative movement is an equitable system of investment possible, and by that method can the worker share in the proceeds of industry of which he is part owner. The co-operative system too, bridges the gulf which exists in the competitive system between effort and reward. Loyalty to co-operation brings its own harvest through the principle of dividend according to the amount of purchases. With the evidence of failure of finance displayed in almost every issue of a newspaper, it is time that co-operators advanced their alternative system with greater confidence as the way to a more just share of the national income.

NAVAL DISARMAMENT.

HILLSBOROUGH MEMBER'S IMPORTANT ROLE.

THE appointment of the Member for Hillsborough as the first Lord of the Admiralty has proved to be an admirable choice. His public statements, whilst they have been very carefully guarded, have demonstrated a grasp of the position re Naval Disarmament worthy of the best quality of sound statesmanship. It says something for the selection by the Hillsborough people of their representative that for the first time they have a Cabinet Minister representing them in the House of Commons, and that he should be the person whom the nation has seen fit to trust with its greatest fighting arm, and to send into the most important naval conference the world has ever seen representing the British Commonwealth of nations. Those who know Mr. Alexander best will trust him most with this great responsibility.

It is impossible to give detailed reports of Mr. Alexander's speeches during the last few weeks on Naval Disarmament generally, but the policy of the British Labour Government may be summarised as follows:—

Navies Must Be Reduced.

The Naval Disarmament Conference—made possible as a result of the indefatigable efforts of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and his fellow-Ministers—is now in session. The representatives of five great naval powers—U.S.A., Japan, France, Italy, and ourselves—have come together to see if they can reach an agreement which will enable them to limit their naval armaments. Their deliberations will be lengthy. The subject is far too large and complicated to admit of solution in a few hours or a few days. But the good work of the Labour Government in dispelling suspicions that were growing up under Tory rule and in creating an atmosphere in which the five countries have been able to get together does hold out hope that the conference will be attended with good results.

The Government's Point of View.

The British Labour Government's point of view can be stated in a very few words. Since the war, there have been a number of political agreements concluded between various nations for the purpose of helping to preserve the peace of the world. The British Government now thinks that the cumulative effect of all those agreements should enable some real advance to be made towards disarmament. They take the view that the armed forces in existence should bear some relation to the immediate risks of war. If the risks have gone down, the armed forces should be reduced accordingly, because they are not a national luxury, but a national expense.

Now the only way to stop competition in the building of ships of war, argues the Government, is to get an agreement. With regard to one class of ship—the battleship—an agreement was arrived at at the Washington Conference of 1922, and since then there has not been any competitive building. And if we fail to reach agreement with regard to ships of war generally now, it is likely that we shall be faced with another twenty years' competitive building.

On the one hand therefore there are these agreements to secure peace, and on the other hand, there are developments in the competitive building of ships which are undoing the good effect of the political agreements.

The Government believed that the peoples expect a reduction of armaments. These reductions can be effected either by a reduction of the fleets in being, or by reductions in the programmes that have been sanctioned. Real reductions can also be obtained in extending the lives of ships built under agreement. The Washington Agreement of 1922, for instance, fixed a "life" of twenty years for battleships, and at the end of twenty years such ships might be replaced. If the "life" were extended from twenty to twenty-five years therefore it would really be equivalent to a reduction in building.

National Security Must Be Preserved.
No reduction is going to be proposed

that will endanger the feeling of national security.

The position of the Government is that it is going to do everything it possibly can, consistent with the need of the country, to show the world that we are prepared to go on stage by stage, step by step, to a satisfactory solution of the disarmament question. Everything is going to depend upon international agreement. We are not going to "disarm by example." That is neither safe nor wise. We are not doing anything merely for a gesture. All that can reasonably be done in that respect has been done. We can only move on the condition that other nations move correspondingly and that the agreement which finally comes out of the conference really represents international policy, and binds other nations as well as ours.

All the naval powers concerned will, at the Conference, review their naval strengths from top to bottom. Battleships, cruisers, destroyers, and submarines will all come under review.

In going into the Conference, the Government will make proposals which are not merely expressions of their own views, but which will represent what they consider to be the most helpful basis for securing mutual agreement and compromise.

On the one hand, it will be the endeavour of the Government to bring about the maximum reduction commensurate with international security, while bearing in mind the danger of too drastic proposals which might wreck all chances of agreement. On the other hand, the Government will bear continuously in mind the extent to which the British Empire is dependent upon our navy for protecting our sea-borne trade and maritime communications.

Finally, the Government take the view that without some progress now in the sphere of naval disarmament, it is to be feared that the cause of general world disarmament will receive a serious check.

THE BIG PUSH.

OF late years February has been of great importance to the co-operative movement as the month during which the great national propaganda campaign is carried out. For the fourth year in succession propaganda on a national scale is to be used for the extension of co-operative membership and trade; and the fortnight chosen for this purpose is from Saturday, February 8th to Saturday, February 22nd (inclusive), when all forces—national and local—will be united in a great propaganda push. The collaboration of all members, officials, and employees of co-operative societies is required to gain the maximum benefit from this effort.

Statistics have proved abundantly the benefit which has accrued to co-operation since these national propaganda campaigns were inaugurated in 1927. Let the figures speak for themselves:—

	Membership.	Trade.
1926 ...	5,186,728	184,879,902
1927 ...	5,579,038	199,924,938
1928 ...	5,885,135	209,389,555

There is little doubt that when the figures are available for the years 1929 and 1930, the power of propaganda will be revealed afresh.

Ah!

Little girl (speaking in quivering voice to big heavy-browed man with a glittering knife): "Have you no heart?"
Man (growling): "No."
Little girl: "Well, then, I'll take three pennyworth of liver."

Not What It Seemed.

Insurance Agent: "Yes, sir; if your premises are burned down we pay you the money immediately."
Client: "And do you make any inquiries?"
Insurance Agent: "We make the most careful inquiries."
Client: "Ah, I thought there was a catch in it somewhere."

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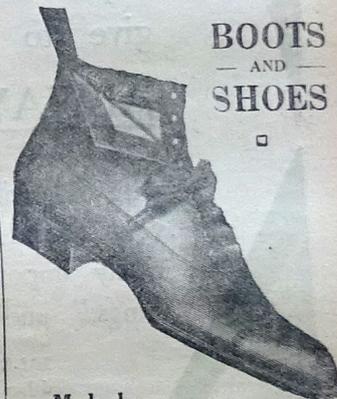
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HELP US TO HELP YOU!

"IT'S the little things that count"—because the "little things" are so many—and that is why you should always shop at your own stores. The measure of progress of this Society depends entirely on the measure of *Trading Support* you give to *Each Department*. Remember, therefore, to

ALWAYS VISIT YOUR OWN STORES FIRST.

The following figures are worth your consideration, they show how vitally important are the "little things," and how, if you would

increase the Society's sales, and incidentally your own Dividend, you must watch those "extra spendings" away from your own stores.

SALES.
Year ended Jan. 28th, 1930,
£1,549,638.

**THE GREATER THE PURCHASES,
THE GREATER THE BENEFITS.**

MEMBERSHIP.
Year ended Jan. 28th, 1930,
55,580.

In round figures an additional

	Per week	Yearly increase		Total
		in sales.	annual sales.	
	£	£	£	
1/- per week per member means	2,775	144,300	1,694,300	
1/6 " " " "	4,150	215,800	1,765,800	
2/- " " " "	5,550	288,600	1,838,600	
2/6 " " " "	7,000	364,000	1,914,000	
3/- " " " "	8,300	431,600	1,981,600	

The benefits would be yours

	Extra gross profit per year.	
	mean	£35,000
1/- extra trade per week per member would		£35,000
1/6 " " " "		£52,000
2/- " " " "		£70,000
2/6 " " " "		£89,000
3/- " " " "		£105,000

Do you know ?

that so small a sum as 2/- weekly, spent outside your own stores means a definite loss to you of 8/8 a year?

ALSO—that by taking your milk supply from us for 12 months, you will receive an amount in dividend equal to ONE MONTH'S FREE SUPPLY OF MILK. A point well worth considering

Will you please help

our great 1930 campaign for more trade and bigger membership by bringing the benefits of co-operation to the notice of friends and neighbours who have not yet joined ?

**BRIGHTSIDE
D and CARBROOK**
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