

# ABOLISH SUBMARINES.

**MR. ALEXANDER'S GREAT PEACE GESTURE.**

**FIRST LORD'S SPEECH AT NAVAL CONFERENCE.**



Mr. A. V. ALEXANDER,  
The First Lord of the Admiralty, at his desk in Admiralty House.

MR. ALEXANDER said: I count it both an honour and a heavy responsibility to be entrusted with the task of introducing for discussion a proposition of my colleagues that the use of submarine vessels for the purposes of war should be totally abolished.

It is, of course, in no way a surprise proposal. It has been consistently urged by successive Governments of His Britannic Majesty, and, it will be remembered, was specially pressed at the recent Conference at Washington. That Conference gathered less than three years after the Armistice of 1918. The representatives of the Powers had fresh in their minds the bitter experience of the first war in which submarines had been extensively used. The world in general had not had obliterated from its mind the feelings of horror which the perils had experienced at results of submarine action which, to quote Lord Balfour, were "inconsistent with the laws of war and in defiance of humanity." I do not think it unreasonable to ask that steps may be taken to prevent a recurrence of such events before the generation which had experience of them passes out and a new generation without such direct knowledge is in control.

**Why Some Nations Would Retain Submarines.**

I am aware, of course, that some of the Powers represented at this Conference have indicated some unwillingness to agree to the complete abolition of the submarine, and, in this delegation, do not for a single moment suggest that the desire of these Powers to retain submarines implies in any way an intention to employ these vessels in a manner contrary to the laws of war.

We clearly understand that their attitude in regard to this matter is based on their views as to the value of the submarine for purely defensive purposes, though quite frankly, we feel these views to be mistaken.

**Submarines Not Defensive Vessels.**

The fact that some of our friends here view their view on what they believe to be the defensive character of submarines, leads me to examine that view somewhat closely. I have already said that the War of 1914-1918 was the first in which submarines had been extensively used, and it is well therefore to take note of that experience. I tell you frankly, that although this country endeavoured to use the submarine for coast defence, that endeavour was largely a failure, and did not prevent the shelling of a number of towns and ports, with heavy loss of civilian life and much material damage. Nor is there any way far to seek. If you have to defend your coast by defence of important points, what has to be guarded against is a raid in a sudden raid, probably under cover of darkness, or a bombardment at dusk or thereon by a vessel approaching largely unseen. We are convinced that this is not an conditions under which submarines can act efficiently. On the surface they are no more than torpedo boats of slow speed—submerged they

are either blind, or of very limited vision. Our view, therefore, is that for purposes of coast defence, the submarine is comparatively ineffectual in relation to what she costs both to build and maintain.

**Submarines Are Used For Offence.**

On the other hand, there can be little doubt from the experience of the War that the submarine is capable of, and was used to a large extent for, offensive operations. In thinking of the British Navy alone, it would not be difficult to "produce numbers of instances where, both for reconnaissance and attack at sea, in narrow seas and harbours, the submarine was effectively used in offensive actions. I have no doubt that other Powers, by their evidence, could further demonstrate this argument. And, do not the special characteristics of the submarine make it of considerable potentiality in attack? Its increasing torpedo and gun armament, and its special capacity for long endurance, constitute powers for offensive action of no mean order. Finally, under this heading, may I point to the extent to which the submarine was used as a commerce raider during the War? I do not here dwell upon the repulsive features of its use for that function, with its lack of provision for the saving of life of both passengers and crews, but merely ask whether the extensive operations of this character in the late war were not offensive actions? Will not the retention of these vessels, in fact, always constitute a danger that their employment in the hands of an unscrupulous enemy will be to methods of attack which civilized nations regard with horror?

**Britain's Sacrifice.**

It may be said—and if not said, it will be thought—that the proposal is one that is of special benefit to our country; that we are the most vulnerable, as was shown in the last war, and seek to safeguard ourselves from a danger that is far greater for us than for any other Power. We do not desire to minimise the importance of this point of view to us, but I would remind you that the losses of our British shipping in the last war exceeded 2,000,000 tons, and in addition, the losses of neutral shipping in the last war exceeded 2,000,000 tons. Therefore, though our British shipping was not so severely in the last war, it is not possible that any one of the Powers may be in an equally difficult position. If the expense of war should permit, also, the outbreak of submarine warfare is retained. If the balance of advan-

age appears to rest with us at present on that score, what is the position, if the submarine is regarded—as I have already indicated some regard is—mainly a defensive weapon? From that point of view the British Empire could show greater need for defensive vessels than any Power, having regard to its immense sea-board, and long lines of communication in every sea. Yet we are prepared, unreservedly, to surrender such defensive protection as submarines are argued to afford, and I submit this point for the careful consideration of the Powers.

**Economics and Real Disarmament in Abolition of Submarines.**

Gentlemen, we are here to confer in order to get an agreement which will mean a real reduction in armaments; to demonstrate to the peoples we represent our faith in the Covenant of the League of Nations and in the signatures to the Pact of Paris for the renunciation of war.

Such a reduction of armaments will not only advance the general cause of Peace, but will also secure an appreciable relief in the economic burdens of the nations. I ask you, therefore, to consider our proposition from that point of view also. The Powers here represented have built, are building, or have authorized over 500 of these vessels designed for submarine warfare. They are expensive in maintenance; they have most complicated machinery, and a very high proportion of skilled personnel is required to man them. They are very expensive to build. They require extensive provision in the way of shore establishments and depot ships to maintain them. Their abolition would, in itself, therefore, achieve enormous reductions in expenditure on armaments. But the saving would not

end there. Indirectly, such a decision as we urge would accomplish almost equally large savings in the provision of destroyers and anti-submarine units: so immediate, that if the Conference agreed to abolish the submarine, we could immediately sit down together to reduce the figures which would otherwise appear as necessary under this head. The total economy would therefore be enormous.

**Conditions of the Personnel.**

I desire to add two short, but I think very material, considerations, in support of our proposition from the point of view of the personnel employed in submarines. Those of us who are politically responsible for policy would do well, I think, to consider (a) the general conditions of service in submarines, and (b) the risks of disaster and loss of life even in peace time. As to the first, I imagine almost all of us have been in a submarine. We admire its ingenuity, its wonderful technique, but we are bound to observe that the lack of space, involving long periods of being unable to stand upright, very often with a vitiated atmosphere when submerged, are hardly in keeping with the improved conditions for industrial workers which we usually advocate to urge at Geneva. As to the second, think for a brief moment of the toll of submarine disasters even since the War. Gentlemen, search your own hearts; they daily face dangers incident to their calling which fill us with great admiration, but is it not true to say that every time there is a submarine disaster, the public conscience is shocked at our own flesh and blood being required by national policy and expediency to face death in conditions in which they have no more chance than a rat in a trap? And there is not a Power here to-day, I repeat to say if I wish there were, which has not experienced such disasters. I will not mention them all, but taking only the worst of them since 1918, in connection with twelve instances, I find that 1,000 men in peacetime submarine operations of the Five Powers no fewer than 570 men have met their death in the conditions I have named. I feel that we may consider the possibility of wiping out the recurrence of such calamities, which cannot be wholly met by the life-saving devices now undergoing experiment.

**I sum up our case for abolition very briefly—**

1. In the general interests of humanity.
2. In the consideration of our view that these vessels are primarily offensive instruments.
3. In order to secure a most substantial contribution to Disarmament and Peace.
4. In view of the very important financial relief to be obtained.
5. In consideration of the condition of service of the personnel and undue risks which can be abolished.

Conclusion. I am speaking to-day for the purpose of advocating the total abolition of submarines, and I have done my best to present to you the

[Continued on page two.]

## ABOLISH SUBMARINES.

(Continued from page one.)

arguments, as I see them, which should lead us to adopt such a course by international agreement. If we fail to reach such agreement here we shall, I feel, have missed a great opportunity. What the position of His Majesty's Government will be in that event has already been made public. We shall endeavour to confine the submarine to defence by limiting it strictly both in size and numbers. In that connection, we should be prepared to accept the lowest possible limits that can be suggested, again both in numbers and size. We should also propose to the Conference that, if submarines are to be retained, most definite conditions should be laid down and agreed upon, with a view to preventing these vessels from being used as commerce destroyers in violation of international law and practice, and the standards of conduct which public opinion most certainly demands. To that end, we should seek to revive the agreement signed at Washington on February 6th, 1922, but which was not fully ratified by the Signatory Powers, to regulate the attack of merchant ships by submarines, in accordance with the rules and practice set out in that Treaty.

I would sincerely urge, however, with all the power it is possible for a single suppliant to command, and supported by tens of millions of people throughout the world, that the proposal of my colleagues for the total abolition of this type of war vessel may be unanimously accepted by the delegates, and that we may all therefore have a part in an act which would mark a very real advance in the evolution of the peoples of the world towards international law, standing, amity, and permanent peace.

## ANOTHER DIRECT LABOUR SUCCESS

STATE PRINTING WORKS MAKE PROFIT OF £107,067 ON YEAR'S WORKING.

A NET profit of £107,067 was made during the year by the State Printing Works controlled by H.M. Stationery Office, according to the 1922 accounts and balance sheet, just issued.

Out of the current profits and those brought forward, the sum of £115,787 was handed over to the Exchequer. The sum of £288,000 had been surrendered to the Exchequer in previous years, so that £162,217 has been handed over to the Exchequer altogether.

The year's net profit is calculated after all the proper deductions have been made for depreciation of plant and machinery, interest on capital, insurance, and superannuation. H.M. Comptroller and Auditor-General (Sir Malcolm G. Bannatyne) adds a certificate to the accounts in which he says—

"I have examined the accounts and balance sheet in accordance with the provisions of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act, 1921. I have obtained all the information and explanations that I have required, and I certify, as the result of my audit, that, in my opinion, this account and balance sheet are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the transactions and state of affairs of the undertaking."

The price charged for the printing works to the various State departments for which work is executed are (on the basis of the official estimate) such as to ensure that these would have been profitable had the various "contracts" been made under the greater part of the work has been executed here and possible, they are, so nearly as can be ascertained, what would have been paid for the work had it been executed in similar circumstances by private firms.

The output of the works during the year was valued at £244,454. Depreciation has been charged at 10 per cent. on diminishing values, and the stock on hand is valued at the market price.

## FLOURISHING BUSINESSES.

NO DEPRESSION IN CO-OPERATION.

Two Sheffield co-operative societies have issued most gratifying reports respecting the last half-year's trade.

## Brightside and Carbrook.

Taking the Brightside and Carbrook figures first. This society has increased its membership during the last half-year by no less than 4,557, and on the year by no less than 16,091; whilst the trade has gone up from £705,399 to £804,642; an increase over of £99,242, and an increasing half-year of £131,185. Increases also are reported in the share capital contributions, in the average purchases per member, and in the penny bank deposits. After allowing for the ordinary interest and depreciation and recommending a dividend of 8s. 8d. in the pound on sales, the directors have been able to add to the reserves, to carry £1,472 forward, and to allocate certain sums for special depreciation.

The payment of 8s. 8d. in the pound dividend will mean a distribution of over £65,000 for the half-year. To report a flourishing business of this kind during a trade depression in the city is a great

tribute to the directors and to the economy of the co-operative system.

Sheffield and Ecclesall. The Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society reports similar progress, the sales for the last half-year (twenty-seven weeks) amounting to £364,073, an increase of £36,282. The total figure for the year amounts to £1,097,080, being an increase over the previous year of £57,778. Increases in share capital, and penny bank deposits are also reported; whilst the membership, which has been continuously on the increase now stands at 42,223, and represents an increase of 2,211.

The society has also provided many new shopping facilities in the district, whilst it is proceeding with the extensions at the Arcade, Ecclesall, as well as with the building of a new dairy at Millhouses.

Both societies therefore are showing continuous development, and their balance sheets prove that they are in a strong financial position with substantial reserves to meet any contingency, without lowering the usual standard of quality of goods and efficiency in service.

## THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S NEW UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT COMES INTO OPERATION ON MARCH 13th.

WORKERS WILL SECURE BIG BENEFITS FROM THAT DATE.

On March 13th the main provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, passed by the Labour Government a month or so ago, will come into operation.

120,000 unemployed people who would have been deprived of their benefit between April this year and April next, owing to the expiration of the "transitional period" will have that benefit continued for a further twelve months. (These are the people who have not paid thirty contributions during the two years prior to claiming benefit.)

87,000 new unemployed people, now disqualified for benefit, may become eligible owing to the changed "not genuinely seeking work" condition. (This is the number as far as can be foreseen at present.)

The new Act provides that a claimant is only liable to disqualification if it is proved by an officer of the Ministry of Labour that he (1) has without good cause refused or failed to apply for or refused to accept a suitable situation which has been notified to him as vacant or about to become vacant; or (2) has without good cause refused or failed to carry out written directions given to him by an officer of an employment exchange with a view to assisting him to find suitable employment.

In addition, many thousands of men, women, and young people will benefit under the various other provisions of the Act. Some of these provisions are as follows:—

## Increased Allowance for Wife or Adult Dependent.

This allowance is to be increased by 2s. a week, from 7s. to 9s., and the scope of the term "adult dependent" is considerably widened, to bring in certain classes of persons hitherto excluded.

## Insurance Age Lowered to Fifteen.

The age for entry into unemployment insurance is reduced from sixteen to fifteen, when the Government raises the school leaving age to fifteen. This will bring 300,000 children of fifteen into the insurance system.

## Increased Benefits for Young People.

The rates of benefit for young people under twenty-one years of age will be raised as shown in the following table, viz.:

Age.	MALES.	
	Present Rate.	Proposed Rate.
15	6 0	6 0
16	6 0	6 0
17	6 0	9 0
18	10 0	14 0
19	12 0	14 0
20	14 0	14 0

Age.	FEMALES.	
	Present Rate.	Proposed Rate.
15	—	5 0
16	5 0	5 0
17	5 0	7 6
18	8 0	12 0
19	10 0	12 0
20	12 0	12 0

At the age of twenty-one the adult rates of 17s. and 15s. respectively become payable. Claimants aged eighteen, nineteen, and twenty who receive additional benefit for a dependent adult receive, and will continue to receive, the 17s. and 15s. rates as well as the dependent's allowance.

Training for Young People. The Act lays down that the Ministry of Labour shall arrange with local education authorities for the provision, so far as is practicable, of approved courses of instruction for persons under eighteen claiming benefit.

Better Rights of Appeal. When an unemployed person's claim has once been admitted, benefit cannot subsequently be disallowed or reduced, if he has not accepted the insurance officer, who, if he has any doubt about a claim, must refer it to the Court of Referees.

Following are some of the changes:—

(1) In general, a claim for benefit, if not allowed by the insurance officer, must be referred to a Court of Referees for decision.

(2) The Court of Referees will not merely make recommendations, but will make decisions, and not, as at present, merely make recommendations.

(3) In addition to the Court of Referees, there will be a right of appeal when the Court of Referees is not unanimous, and, pending the appeal, benefit will not be suspended.

(4) Benefit will be paid forthwith when a decision favourable to a claimant is given by the Court of Referees (except that, in cases where the Court of Referees is not unanimous, benefit will not be paid pending appeal to the Court of Referees).

The additional grant from the Treasury under the terms of the new Act will be equal to £14,500 per week, or an increase from £12,000,000 to £26,500,000 in a full year.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Ltd.

## DRAPERY DEPARTMENT.

Interpreting the

## SPRING FASHIONS

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WEDNESDAY EVENING,

6-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

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March 26th, 28th, &amp; 29th, Two Afternoon Sessions Daily.

3 to 4 p.m. and 4-30 to 5-30 p.m.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!



# AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

By Councillor R. E. JONES, J.P.

My contribution to the March issue of the "Co-operator" will be a survey of the meetings since my election to that body, and impressions thereon. It would not be incorrect to say that the criticism which I have heard for the past twenty-five years, with which I have been associated in the main, and which has been directed against previous administrations of Conservatives and Liberals, and, at a later date, the Citizen Party, that fundamentally they were concerned with the preservation of vested interests. This has been actually detected in the structure of all the speeches coming from the opposition, to all proposals coming from the Co-operative and Labour Party. Some of the opposition being very thinly veiled. If the merit of debate could be correctly transferred from the Council Chamber to the Press (which, unfortunately, our party do not control) it would be a revelation to the public of Sheffield.

**Rowlinson versus Blanchard.**  
Statements are frequently made by the opposition, the only persons who stand discredited being the persons responsible for making them. It is inconceivable that the distortion of facts are not well known to the persons responsible. Such was demonstrated during the debate on the "Corporation Bill," when Alderman Blanchard made a bold attempt to kill the Bill with faint praise and feeble criticism. However, the weakness of his case was easily demonstrated when Alderman Rowlinson made his effective reply, by demonstrating that his premise was without foundation and his figures were not consistent with facts.

**Sheffield's Parliamentary Bill.**  
If the public of Sheffield could have been privileged to hear the merits of the debate in the Council, and have detected the struggle made by and on behalf of the vested interests behind the opposition, whose attitude to the Bill was expressed in resolutions which had been received from the Chamber of Commerce, and the Sheffield and District United Distributive Trades Association, no meeting in the Town Hall, ballot of the ratepayers, house-to-house distribution of literature, or

misrepresentation through the Press could have produced the defeat which the Bill sustained. However, the fact remains that 500 unemployed men in Sheffield have had wrested from them the possibility of employment for a period of approximately three years, by capricious on the one hand and indifference on the other.

**Democracy!**  
Having regard to the wonderful achievements by the Co-operative and Labour administration since 1916, in the direction of improved house building, production of better and cheaper tramcars, and the unquestioned success of the printing department, all by such a defeat was possible. If Democracy ever reaches its destiny, it will be by "Eternal vigilance, which is the price of Freedom." If by such methods as I have before me as I write a quotation from Sir Oliver Lodge, 1906, which is applicable to the present, viz.:-

*"If society were in a healthy condition, if the development and elevation of man had not led to a secondary and quite subordinate place to the development and accumulation of property, a few generations of better education could easily mend it on the intellectual side. It is the greedy and essentially uneducated condition of what prizes itself as the most practical part of society, and the consequent deep-rooted and unadmitted canker eating into the bones of the social organism that is disgusting and oppressive. If these evils are to be averted, it cannot be done other than by an organised army of workers and thinkers, imbued with the right spirit, informed as to the real facts, devoted to the cause of goodness, and trained for the detection of long accustomed errors, and for the development of Thomas Life."*

**Sacred Rights of Private Property.**  
It is this fallacious and immoral estimate of values that lies at the root

of all our troubles. "Municipality competing with private enterprise," "Labour's interference with the sacred rights of property," was the burden of all the opposition. I will readily admit that we propose to make substantial encroachments upon the artificial and unnatural rights of private property, which many of those supposed rights of property are. Surely the moral right to live and the right of the community over and above the right of a few private individuals is as high as any of the supposed rights in land, minerals, or any of the forces and essentials which are indispensable to the well-being of the community.

**Man versus the Machine.**  
I will remember a firm of twenty years ago which was anxious to place its goods on the Australasian market, and this could only be done by producing credentials that it was a firm who employed trade union labour. An inquiry was instituted by the firm as to who were and who were not members of their union. This inquiry resulted in the firm instructing a number of its employees to get into the union, which was the then Anonymous Society of Engineers, the firm giving them their entrance fee. At a much later date the firm installed a new lathe, which made it possible for a youth to do the work of approximately three men. It was my duty, on behalf of the union, to appeal to the firm for one of the men referred to, who had years of service to his credit, to be engaged to work the lathe rather than be turned out to the street. I have very vivid recollections of the reception given to me and my colleague by the manager at the interview, who suggested that he would manage his shop as he liked, and if we were not satisfied we could take all our numbers away. This was quite consistent with the rights of property as understood then and now.

During the January meeting we were reminded by Alderman H. W. Jackson of our shortcomings in relation to providing suitable housing accommodation for the lower paid workers. This question will be dealt with fully in the April "Co-operator" by my colleague, Alderman T. Watkins; therefore, I refrain from making any comment.

**Social Survey of Sheffield.**  
Under the minutes of the Finance Committee of the February meeting, a full-dress debate took place around the recommendation of the Finance Com-

mittee to make a grant of £500 per year for three years to the "Sheffield Survey Committee," the purpose of this committee being, viz.:-

(a) To extend the survey made by Professor Abercrombie's civic survey of Sheffield which was undertaken by the city, which it is intended to expand as a matter of local history, geography, and economics.

(b) It will provide a body of facts which may be used as a guide in the future development of the city.

(c) It is hoped to encourage a finer sense of citizenship by bringing together a large body of voluntary workers who will become keen students of civic problems, and by giving widespread publicity to the facts of the social life of Sheffield.

In its defence, reference was made to the memorable work of Seeholm Rowntree in his look on the industrial and social conditions of York, and the earlier work of Mr. Charles Booth's "Life and Labour of the People." Both books gave a wonderful impetus to work of social reform by clarifying the causes of poverty and disease. This expenditure, it was suggested by the Citizen Party, was unnecessary, because we had to hand all the agencies which could provide the information required. If the research work done by this committee approximates to the information collected by the two persons above referred to, the investment will be worth the while.

**Tram Fares.**

This item, over which volumes of criticism has been levelled against the Labour Party for some promise made in 1927, was at this meeting partially retracted; and despite all its criticism, when the Citizen Party got an instalment of what they considered more overdue they were very disappointed. When the cat came out of the bag it was a different colour to what they expected, otherwise they took exception to the fact that it did come out of the bag. The Labour Party were held up to ridicule for not making general reductions instead of partial and exceptional reductions. Some members, and others gave us a lecture on what they considered bad finance; others suggested that there had been financial juggling, but all the cards were put on the table, and the proposal fully justified from all points of view. However, a first instalment has been made in reducing tram fares, and further relief will be given as and when finances permit. The legacy left to the Labour Party when they assumed control of the city, and the further disabilities placed on local finances by the late Tory Government, will very materially impede the rate of progress in the near future. That we are on the right road, and travelling in the right direction, is the acid test and the thing that matters.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Cooperative Society Limited.

## BOOT DEPARTMENT :: THE ARCADE, ECCLESALL RD.

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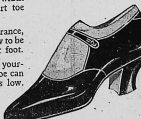
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YOUR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

## Sheffield Cooperator.

MARCH, 1930.

### SUPERANNUATION.

The discussions that have been prevailing with regard to the Sheffield Corporation superannuation scheme have revealed once again the economy and advantages of social insurance.

When first the idea of old-age pensions was promulgated wealthy people were extremely anxious to avoid the "degradation" consequent upon any degree of security being given to the worker in his old age. (That, however, did not prevent the purchase of annuities by these people as a guarantee against poverty in their cases.) The growth of a more sensitive social conscience as years have gone by has resulted in the extension of health, old-age, and unemployment insurance as State subsidised systems. In addition to which municipalities, enlightened employers, and co-operative societies, have established schemes within their own boundaries.

The tremendous burden lifted from the mind of the average man when he is given security against poverty is worth an extra special effort to achieve. The National Union of Teachers have secured recognition for what is perhaps one of the best schemes in operation at the present time, and it is natural that the Corporation officials and employees should look forward to the same guarantee having regard to the similarity of their position, and the fact that the municipality—as co-operative societies—ought to be model employers.

The criticism against the Sheffield scheme is two-fold. First of all, that it does not apply to the low-paid worker. We very much regret that a satisfactory scheme to embrace all the corporation employees is not yet practicable. At the same time, the scheme proposed goes pretty low down in the scale of salaries, and touches practically every clerk as well as official in the corporation department. There is a non-contributory scheme in operation in Sheffield giving a comparatively reasonable pension to corporation employees with years of work to their credit in the city's services. None of these schemes are perfect when first established, and inevitably some sections of the beneficiaries will receive advantages greater than others at the beginning of the scheme. We hope that it will be possible to adopt a contributory scheme eventually for all employees which should not make quite so great a demand relatively upon the weekly wage-earner in the way of contributions as upon the corporation officials.

The other objection to the scheme is the fact that the time is not opportune. The time has never yet been opportune for the advance of social legislation of any kind, and never will be in the eyes of reactionaries, who are always careful to prepare for the future security of themselves and their descendants. The effects of rationalisation at the moment, throwing thousands of men on the streets and causing intense mental as well as physical misery demonstrate how far the average co-called business man cares for social insurance or for human feelings when it suits his purpose to re-organise his business.

Pending full and adequate pensions to the sick and the old these contributory schemes are the best guarantee against that lurking care that makes the lives of middle-aged and old people a misery of uncertainty. Moreover, they have been retained for officials who reasons will open the way to younger men in the service. Finally the scheme will abolish the so-called retaining fees growing number of highly trained and popular. It is authoritatively stated that in the long run it will be sound financial policy of view.

Divided on purchases has been shown to be a blessing.

## HILLSBOROUGH LABOUR PARTY.

The Hillsborough Labour Party held the second of their monthly dances at the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute on February 20th. There was not such a large attendance as at the previous dance, but this was due to the previous attractions on the night. In addition to the secretary and officers, a Councilor J. H. Skelton was present. A Councilor dance is to be held on Thursday, March 20th. Tickets, 1s., can be obtained from the secretary, Mr. A. Meeks, 35, Carnarvon-street, or any members of the committee.

## ECLESALL CO-OPERATIVE PARTY.

The Ecclesall Divisional Council held their monthly meeting in the Guildroom, Cemetery-road, on Monday, February 24th. The Central Council report and Executive report were discussed. Mr. Ballard, of Ecclesall of the Central Executive, explained the relationship of the Co-operative and Ecclesall Parties, and also matters to be discussed at the National Conference of the party. Delegates were appointed for this conference.

Arrangements were also made for a social to be held in the Banqueting Hall, the Arcade, provisional date, April 2nd. Councilor J. A. Longson, chairman of the Sheffield Party, is to give a short address on the "Work and Objects of Co-operative Politicians." Secretary, Mr. C. H. Green, 17, Slat-street. The Woodhouse Section of Ecclesall Co-operative Party are continuing with their weekly meetings on Tuesday afternoons in the Mount Street Schoolroom, Wellington-street. Mr. A. Ballard, secretary of the Sheffield Party, addressed the meeting held on February 27th. Subject: "The Individual Democrat." An interesting discussion followed, and Mr. Ballard was thanked for his address. Secretary, Mrs. J. Billan, 29, Mitchell-street.

## LECTURES FOR EMPLOYEES.

The Brightside and Carbrook Educational Committee arranged two popular lectures for employees in Ye Olde Castle Restaurant, at the City Stores, on Thursday, February 6th. Mr. A. Joyce (manager of the Kettering Co-operative Society) lectured on "The Co-operative Employees' Relations to the Problems of the Movement." Mr. Joyce showed that the subjects of the trade unionist as outlined by Mr. Citrine, secretary of the T.U.C., were practically attained in co-operative employment, viz.: (a) Adequate remuneration, (b) security, and (c) a voice in control and management. An interesting discussion was closed by the recording of a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Joyce. Mr. Zethi White (chairman of the Sheffield branch of the N.U.D.A.W., and employee member of the B. and C. board of management) presided.

The second lecture was given by Mr. E. Topham, general editor of the Co-operative Union, and an ex-member of "Sheffield Independent" and the "Sheffield Worker." Mr. Topham paid a high tribute to the Brightside and Carbrook Society in establishing the splendid enterprise at the City Stores. Taking for his subject, "Both Sides of the Counter," Mr. Topham outlined the philosophy of the counter in industrial production as the effect of modern advertising on the customer's psychology; the necessity of technical training for shop assistants; the difference between the co-operative and those employed in private trade; and also the ultimate aim of co-operation as given by the Rochdale pioneers, viz., self-employment and the merging of the consumer and producer in an industrial system which would produce not for profit but for need, and in which the interest of buyer and seller would be ideally recognised.

Guild members were also included in the second lecture. Mr. A. Ballard, chairman of the B. and C. Education Committee presided over a large meeting. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by a guild member, supported by an employee, and supported by a member of the "board of management." Thus, members, employees, and officers demonstrated the ethics of co-operative trade.

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**SHEFFIELD EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
AND THE CATHOLICS.

CANON DOLAN'S TRIBUTE TO LABOUR MAJORITY.

Some attempt having been made in the Press to try to prove that the Sheffield City Education Committee were not acting fairly to the Catholics we print below the statement of Canon Dolan on the arrangement arrived at between the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Education Committee and the Catholic authorities regarding the Notre Dame School and the De La Salle College.

Canon Dolan, however, stated that he was sorry the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee had not seen their way to recommend the Education Committee to support the Catholics (Monday) Town Council in their resolution urging the Government to give grants to non-provided schools to meet the requirements of the Board of Education. He thought that it would be in their own interest to do so. When the Act raising the school age was passed, and the Hadow Scheme was in working order, he wondered what was going to happen. If, as was the fact, the Education Committee could not meet the requirements of the Board of Education without a special and additional grant (and this the Government had promised), it was quite clear that such a grant would be necessary for non-provided schools under their requirements if the Government persisted in

its refusal to make an extra grant for non-provided schools. What would then happen? As he saw it, the Education Committee would have to follow one of the courses. Either they would have to assist the managers of non-provided schools out of the rates alone, or they would have to carry out an active campaign to force every Catholic child above eleven years old into the council schools. This would mean a very bitter fight. It did not for a moment suppose that he was the policy of the Education Committee; but it seemed to him that their present policy of drifting would land them on these rocks. He did not intend moving an amendment, for he would rather leave the recommendation, namely, to take no definite action, as it was, than run the risk of an adverse vote which would mean a recommendation to oppose.

Subsequently, at the close of the discussion on the matter, Canon Dolan rose to say that he hoped the committee had not got the impression that he was complaining personally of the treatment by the Labour majority. As a matter of fact, he had found them most amenable, and whilst there was a great deal of prejudice to remove from the minds of many people, he could say personally that he had had less difficulty with the committee under the present authority than with their predecessors, and he would not for a moment like it to be said that the Labour Party as such were dealing unfairly with them.

**VICTIMISATION BY PRIVATE**  
**TRADERS.**

PRIVATE traders can please themselves whether they join co-operative societies. No compulsion is applied to anyone in order to force them to become co-operators. Membership is essentially voluntary. But what of the private traders who seek to compel their employees to withdraw from membership of a co-operative society? Let the extract from the February issue of "The Grocer" speak for itself:—

"Commercial" and  
"Co-operatives."

In recent months there have been several references at meetings of trade organisations to the fact that certain individuals who are relying upon private enterprise traders for their livelihood have been thoughtlessly supporting co-operative societies, whose avowed aim is the elimination of individual traders and the fostering of co-operation. Representations have been made in different quarters to demonstrate the direction in which such individuals' real interests lie, and we believe they have been attended by some success. In this connection, it is somewhat surprising to read that at the meeting of the Bradford and District Grocers' Association, on Tuesday, Mr. W. Gray referred to the number of commercial travellers who were calling upon private traders soliciting orders,

and at the same time were members of and making the whole of their purchases from co-operative stores. He said he would refuse to deal with any traveller whom he knew to be a member of any co-operative society, but, if absolutely essential, he would go direct to his firm, ignoring the traveller. A more short-sighted policy than that of "commercial" referred to would be difficult to imagine, and we trust that the Commercial Travellers' Association, to which a communication on the subject is to be addressed, will be able to demonstrate to the travellers concerned the error of their ways.

**TO THE RESCUE.**

CO-OPERATORS have been general supporters of voluntary institutions engaged on important social work. One such institution which has benefited greatly by co-operative contributions is the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

There are several lifeboats which bear the name "Co-operator" in token of the donors. It will be a pleasure to many thousands of co-operative contributors to know that "Co-operator No. 1" lifeboat, stationed at Cullercoats, was responsible for an excellent piece of rescue work, which has been noted by the Lifeboat Institution in the following terms:—

"During a strong south-westerly gale, with a rough sea, information was received that the fishing cobble 'Providence' was in distress to the north of Cullercoats. The lifeboat 'Co-operator No. 1' was smartly launched. She found the cobble with her engine broken down and unable to make headway, as she was shipping water heavily. The boat, which was towed into safety, contained the second coxswain of the lifeboat, his son, and the bosman of the lifeboat." Thus, valuable lives were saved by the skill and courage of the Cullercoats lifeboatmen with the equipment provided by co-operators.

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# ARE THE RICH OVER-TAXED?

## FACTS FOR WAGE EARNERS.

There is a good deal of misunderstanding with regard to the amount that the richer classes of the community have to pay in taxation. As the result of carefully-planned propaganda campaigns they have spread the idea that the greater part of their big incomes is taken from them by the State. Nothing could be further from the truth. And it can do no harm at all to let the people know what the real facts are.

These official facts are to be found in the annual report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, issued by H.M. Stationery Office.

**Super-Tax and Income Tax.**  
It is generally known, of course, that income tax is charged at the rate of 7s. in the pound on the first £226 of taxable income, after certain allowances and deductions have been made, and at the rate of 4s. in the pound on income beyond the first £226. Super tax is charged on income in excess of £2,000 a year, on a graduated scale which rises from 9d. in the pound on the first £400 in excess of the £2,000 limit to 6s. in the pound on incomes over £30,000 a year.

When all the allowances and deductions and the various abatements in the rate of income tax and super tax have been taken into account, the net effective rates of taxation per pound of total income is as shown in the following table:-

Total Income Per Year.	Net Effective rate of Tax in the pound (Income Tax and Super-Tax combined).
£ 2,000	0 4
2,250	0 6
2,500	0 8
2,750	0 9
3,000	0 9
4,000	0 9
5,000	0 9
6,000	0 11
7,000	0 11
8,000	0 11
9,000	0 10
10,000	0 10
15,000	0 10
20,000	0 10
25,000	0 10
30,000	0 10
40,000	0 10
50,000	0 10
100,000	0 6
150,000	0 6

Thus to extract a few examples from various points up to the ladder, we find that the man with—  
£2,000 a year pays 2s. 10d. in the pound and has 17s. 2d. left.  
£3,000 a year pays 3s. 6d. in the pound and has 15s. 7d. left.  
£4,000 a year pays 3s. 6d. in the pound and has 14s. 1d. left.  
£5,000 a year pays 3s. 6d. in the pound and has 13s. 7d. left.

These examples are calculated on the basis that the income is all "earned" and assumes that the taxpayer is a married man with no dependants. If the income were "investment" income, the rate of tax in the pound would be a few pence higher, and it would also vary by a few pence up and down according to whether the taxpayer happened to be a single man with no family or a married man with children as well as a wife to maintain.

**Death Duties.**  
There is a similar misconception in the public mind with regard to the amount that the State takes in Death Duties. The rate of Estate Duty, payable at death, is based on a graduated scale, and a few specimen rates, selected from various points on the scale, are as follows:-

Amount of Estate.	Rate Per Cent. of Duty.
10,000 to 12,000	5
13,000 to 15,000	7
21,000 to 25,000	9
25,000 to 30,000	10
40,000 to 45,000	10
50,000 to 60,000	13
100,000 to 110,000	15
200,000 to 225,000	25
250,000 to 2,000,000	25
2,000,000 to 2,500,000	35
Over 2,500,000	40

It will be seen here that quite handsome sums are left for the heirs to inherit, even after the State has taken its share of Estate Duty.

**A.V.C.**  
A young man at college named Frenzo. Weighed down by M.A.'s and A. Beese, collapsed from the strain.  
Said his doctor, "Tis plain  
You are killing yourself by degree."

# CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

## ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held their annual meeting at the new Attercliffe Institute on February 25th. There was a large attendance of members. Reports were given from the Central Political Council meeting, and election of officers resulted in the election of Messrs. Holland as president, Mr. C. W. Longley, 7, Sanderson-street, as divisional secretary; Attercliffe and Tinsley Ward secretary, Mr. J. W. White; and Darnall Ward secretary, Mr. J. Murphy. Representatives to the Central Political Council, and the Central Executive, as well as the Attercliffe Institute Management Committee, were also appointed.

Afterwards a social evening and dance was held. There was a good response to the appeal under the individual membership scheme. Next meeting will be held at the Tinsley Guild-room, at 7.30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 18th. All supporters in the Attercliffe Division cordially invited.

## NEEPSEND.

Recently a special meeting of the Neepsend Ward Committee was held on Wednesday, February 26th, to consider the question of the superannuation scheme to be proposed for the Sheffield Corporation officials. Councillor Longdale and Robinson and Alderman T. H. Watkinson explained the details of the scheme, and a good discussion followed.

## HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party are extending their membership week by week, and there is every sign that the ideal they have aimed at, viz.: doubling their membership for 1930, will be accomplished during the next few months. The Monday evening meetings are proving a huge success, whilst the Women's Section meetings on Monday afternoons have, on several occasions, found it necessary to adjourn to the larger Institute on account of increased attendance. At a recent meeting Mr. E. Watworth, manager of the B. and C. Drapery Department, gave an interesting lecture on the production and distribution of drapery goods. Mr. P. Sandford, manager of the B. and C. Furnishing Department, and Mr. S. Gill, manager of the Coal Department, have also been invited to address these meetings.

## WESTON PARK MUSEUM.

Mr. J. W. Baggaley, Curator, Weston Park Museum, gave a fine lecture on the work of museums at the Hillsborough Institute on March 2nd. Mr. Baggaley's lecture was illustrated by nearly 200 excellent lantern slides. Alderman A. Barton (chairman of the Museum and Art Gallery Committee) presided. Mr. Baggaley was heartily thanked for his lecture, and the opinion was expressed that the lecture could well be given in different parts of the

city, and would do much to stimulate Sheffielders in the exhibits at the Western Park Museum.

## SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Co-operative Party are increasing their membership, and will take to be amongst the best of the Co-operative Party organizations in Sheffield. In addition to the Council reports given periodically by the various branch councillors representing the ward, play-readings, socials, concerts, and lectures are being arranged. Recently Mr. A. E. Butcher gave a fine lecture on "Bobbie Burns," illustrating same by gramophone records of Scottish songs. Mr. A. Ballard, party secretary, also lectured on "The Philosophies of Co-operation and Labour." The Women's Section, which meets in the Institute on Monday afternoons, has now got a fine organization. In addition to the ordinary meetings, visits have been arranged to the abbeys, the Ewden Valley water works, and to the "Sheffield Telegraph" offices and works. The secretary, Mrs. A. Allen, 5, Ferringham-road, Southey, will be pleased to admit new members any Monday afternoon, 7.30 p.m., in the Institute over the Co-operative Store, Southey.

## WADSWLEY BRIDGE LABOUR PARTY.

The Wadswley Bridge Labour Party, who are working in close collaboration with the Sheffield Co-operative Party, have arranged a series of social evenings. On February 13th a successful dance was held in the Hillsborough Park Cinema Dancer Hall. Meetings are held fortnightly in the U.M.C. Schoolroom, Wadswley Bridge, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. A. Ballard, secretary of the Co-operative Party, is to speak on March 18th. Subject: "Labour Policy." All supporters are cordially invited to attend the meetings and to join the party. Secretary, Mr. G. H. Bolton, 11, Gillat-road.

## CO-OPERATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE.

The annual conference of the Co-operative Party, which takes place at Buxton this Easter, will be of greater importance than usual in view of the fact that a large proportion of the nine Co-operative M.P.'s hold responsible position in the present Government.

The chairman of the conference, Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P., is Junior Lord of the Treasury and a Government Whip. A feature of the proceedings will be a paper delivered by Alderman E. Haywood, chairman of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union, on the attempted boycotts of the Co-operative Movement and their political implications.

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