



WHY RENTS ARE HIGH.

THE BURDEN OF INTEREST ON RENT CHARGES.

SPEECH ON FINANCE IN RELATION TO HOUSING.

BY ALDERMAN T. H. WATKINS.

At a recent meeting of the Sheffield Co-operative Party, Alderman T. H. Watkins (Chairman of the Sheffield Finance Committee) gave some striking facts and figures showing the heavy burden of finance and its general effect upon the housing question.

Methods of Procedure.
Alderman Watkins said that all schemes of capital expenditure requiring loan sanction means the sanction of the Government Department concerned. Housing schemes and costs come under this heading, but even when sanction is granted loans must be raised on the money market. Then purchase of land, preparation of plans, acceptance of tenders, &c., must be proceeded with, and costs of roads, sewers, &c., have to be estimated. Taking the cost of a £500 house as an example, a loan for sixty years at 5 per cent. means that £1,500 is actually paid besides the repayment of the loan of £500, making in all £1,000. To be quite fair, however, it should be pointed out that the cost is reduced by about one-third the interest earnings on the repayment fund, representing yearly payments to a separate fund to provide the £500 in sixty years' time.

Right Hon. John Wheatley, M.P.
Alderman Watkins then quoted the Right Hon. John Wheatley, M.P., when introducing his Housing Bill in 1924, as saying:—
"Taking the case of a house of £500, I find that the amount which the land on which the house sits adds to the weekly rent of the house is only 1/6d. The land costs us less than £300 an acre. Taking the whole period during which we have been building after 1910, and taking £200 an acre, and ten-houses to the acre—although we usually put more— it means that there is a burden on each house of £20. But that £20 has to be distributed over sixty years, which is the reasonable expectation of life of the house. That brings the burden on the house to 6s. 8d. a year, or only 1/6d. per week. So that if we could get the land free, we should reduce the rent by 1/6d. per week."

"Taking the next item in the expenditure, the cost of materials and profits amounts to £280, and I find that that puts a weekly burden on the house of 1s. 10/6d. Coming next to the cost of the people who build the house, that is, all the tradesmen—apart from the cost of building materials—such as bricklayer, mason, plumber, joiner, slater, and labourer, the whole burden of the cost of building a house only adds 1s. 3d. a week to the rent."

"In other words, if you got the house built free of labour charges, if the workers worked for nothing, you could reduce the rent by 9s. 3d. a week. That is the wages cost of building a working-class house, and distributing it over sixty years, it works out at 1s. 3d. a week."

"Now I may be asked, how is it we require a subsidy, seeing that the labour costs, the costs of the landlord, the manufacturer, the builder, and the tradesmen and labourers engaged in producing a house only amount to a weekly rent of 9s. 3d.? It is when I come to the finance of it that I find

where the burden comes in. Taking the rate of interest at 5 per cent. for the loan periods, it requires 6s. 6d. a week from the house to meet the burden of finance. In other words, if all the people who, by hand or brain, give service to the production of the house take 2s. 3d. that section of the community who lend, not their labour, but their credit, their surplus wealth—usually, not their savings, but their earnings—take twice as much out of the rent of the house as all the useful contributions to the erection of the house."

Alderman Watkins added to this question, in further proof of his point, some remarks by Mr. A. H. Leigh Smith, F.S.A.A., the City Treasurer of Liverpool, to the following effect:

Half Per Cent. Means One Shilling Per Week as Rent.

The British Government finances all its capital expenditure out of revenue (pay as you go) or current income, it is in the case of local authorities, it is the general practice to asset such expenditure out of loans. The system of borrowing for all capital works imposes a heavy burden upon the community, and when applied to the housing problem means an effect and generally speaking, that every 1 per cent. in the interest rate means 1s. per week on the rent. Five per cent. therefore means 5s. per week on the rent. The sinking fund will reduce somewhat the charge of 5s. per interest by one-third, say to 6s. 6d. This cost is not merely incidental to the present time, but operates to the same extent for forty or sixty years. If capital unencumbered by interest could be obtained, the housing problem would be near solution.

£120,000,000 for Housing and Town Planning.

The Association of Municipal Corporations had emphasized the same fact, for they stated in a recent report that:—"Having regard to the demand which will undoubtedly be made on the money market within the next few years with respect to the financing of other public works . . . will probably involve an increase in borrowing rates. This is a serious position when one considers the housing problem, every 1 per cent. increase on the rate of interest means for an average A type of house, an addition of 8d. per week. During the last ten years eighty-three county boroughs have incurred commitments exceeding £120,000,000 in respect of housing and town planning."

The financial problem of housing could be summarised as follows:—

1. Present commitments for sixty years with rates of interest as stated.
2. Future commitments for sixty years.
3. Rates of interest and possible increase.
4. Limitations of money available for borrowing purposes.

Sheffield Position.
Turning to the local position, the Alderman gave the following facts relating to the number of houses built each year in Sheffield and the average cost per house:—

Year Ended.	Erected.	Average Cost Per House.
March 31st, 1920...	97	762
" 1921...	191	861
" 1922...	1,115	848
" 1923...	625	462
" 1924...	305	324
" 1925...	401	444
" 1926...	1,260	425
" 1927...	1,817	425
" 1928...	773	377
" 1929...	997	339
" 1930...	—	395

After engaging upon this the speaker showed the cost of the subsidy borne by the Sheffield Corporation under the Housing Acts, 1929-30, as follows:—

Year ended March 31st, 1929...	£
1921...	8,662
" 1922...	8,715
" 1923...	8,721
" 1924...	10,857
" 1925...	18,465
" 1926...	20,318
" 1927...	20,805
" 1928...	21,146
" 1929...	23,170
" 1930...	28,930

*Estimated. £96,210

Alderman Watkins summarised the case as showing the effect of finance on housing by giving the actual details of a three bedroom house costing £168 10s. to build, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Labour	125	0	1
Material, &c.	218	6	0
Land	23	8	0
Streets, Sewers, &c.	75	16	0
	468	10	0
Maintenance, 5 per cent.	23	4	0
Losses, 5 per cent.	23	4	0
Repairs, 20 per cent.	93	8	0
Interest	6	7	0
Less Government and Corporation Subsidy	4	0	0
Rent paid by tenant. 80			

Right Hon. R. McKenna.

The Alderman then quoted the Right Hon. R. McKenna, when speaking at the ordinary general meeting of the Midland Bank Ltd. (of which he is chairman) as saying:—"The vital need for the future is to ensure that the maintenance of prosperity (1) with a growing population, (2) and ever-improving standards of living, both requiring an expansion in the volume of trade, shall not be hampered by false restrictions on the quantity of money. We need careful and expert consideration of the theoretical bases and practical technique of our credit and currency system, including the position of the Bank of England as the central institution and custodian of our monetary resources. No time is too early for this."

Finance Servant, Not Master. This view expressed over three years

ago is even more applicable to-day. As Mr. McKenna is a member of the committee appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to inquire into the question of "Finance and Industry," so doubt the report of the committee will issue will contain practical suggestions of the view expressed above. There is also the view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he said: "Finance may be the servant of industry and not the master," which when interpreted and put into practice will be far-reaching and will have one important bearing upon future progress in our own country."

Alderman Watkins concluded his address by an appeal for a fuller appreciation of the tremendous influence of finance, not only upon housing, but upon industry and social reform. Here upon industry and social reform. Here was the stronghold of the present system, and it was essential that operation and all interested in the development of a higher social order should realise the tremendous part that finance played in these important matters. When our opponents complain about the slow progress in the building of houses to be let at cheap rents, they should remember that it was their system which was responsible for these high rents and imposing this excessively heavy burden upon the community.

POINTS FOR RATEPAYERS.

The Libraries Committee reported the increase in the issues of books was still growing, and had risen in January to 219,416, as against 199,928 for January of last year.

The attendances at the Mappin Art Gallery and Museum were 28,020 for January, 1930, as against 17,732 for last year.

The Mappin Art Gallery had purchased a picture, "Fort Aspalg," by George Houston, and some other attractive new exhibitions had been arranged. Citizens should seek to enjoy the great treasures they themselves possess in their own Gallery.

The Estates Committee thanked Mr. J. W. Baggeley, the Curator of the Museum, for his services in the removal of vermin from Corporation houses. Another illustration of the value of science.

Miss Mercedes Gleitze, the Channel swimmer, is carrying out an endurance swim at Glossop-wood Bath, on May 23rd and 24th next.

The Electric Light Committee are finding some force in the suggestion by spending £28,480 on change and extension of mains.

The number of workpeople employed by the Corporation at the end of February was 9,312.

The comparative cost of building schools by direct and contract labour is as follows:—

	Per Piece.	£	s.	d.
Prince Edward (contract)	31	7	6	
Bywood (direct)	27	13	0	
Weybourn (contract)	35	10	6	
Longton (direct)	27	12	5	

*The roof of Weybourn School fell in and has had to be replaced.

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AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

SUPERANNATION AND BIRTH CONTROL.

BY ALDERMAN A. BARTON.

THE City Council met on March 5th, and in spite of the football which religiously did their duty of spending the ratepayers' money!

There is probably a connection between birth control and superannation, as a low birth rate usually accompanies a low death rate and longer life, but so far as the Council was concerned, they were distinct topics.

The subject of superannation came early as a special meeting and two-thirds majority were required for this time the victory was assured. Councillor Hunter made a last bold effort to retrieve the situation, but even his party—wherever it may be—was divided.

The only point he put was that we could not afford it. The opinion of the Labour people was that we could not afford to be without it.

As councillors and advisers may be as good, or better, at eighty than at forty, but is not the usual capacity of men over sixty-five, and the tendency is for the committees to keep on such men because they haven't the heart to throw them out of employment. The superannation scheme will give an opportunity to the younger men and secure greater efficiency in the service, and for that reason alone is worth all the money it will cost.

It has been objected that it is not right it should apply only to officials. Let me say it is always open to the workpeople to come in the superannation scheme on equal terms, whenever the trade unions agree to apply for it. And if they prefer another scheme, let them formulate it, and it will be considered carefully and with a desire to meet them.

It is absurd to object to a reform because it does not apply to everyone. Progress always starts with a few before it extends to the many. The total cost to the city is £25,837 per year. But after five years, the situation is reviewed and the share of the Corporation, judging by comparative schemes, will be lessened.

Alderman Graves said he proposed such a scheme thirty years ago. If it had been carried out then the present cost to the city would be practically nil. He voted against it last time, but said the situation had changed considerably this year, as the manufacturers had been relieved of three-quarters of their rates by the recent Act, and, consequently, it would not be a burden on industry.

Alderman Watkins and Rowleson also spoke and the scheme was carried.

Electric Light for Dronfield.

The Electric Supply Committee are extending their supply to Dronfield and Councillor Bercroft and Alderman Harold Jackson were very anxious we should not give too much away.

Alderman Selwedge said they proposed to charge the usual amounts plus 20 per cent., and asserted that they would give the extra cost, but it was considered

it would result in a greatly extended use of the current which would be an advantage to Sheffield. The amendment of the Citizens' Party was defeated.

Allotments and Unemployed.

Councillor Furness said the unemployed had shown themselves eager for allotments, and over 900 had been applied for. He made it clear that they had an assurance from the Labour Exchange that they would be taken into account the fact that a man had an allotment.

Penny Fares.

Councillor Bercroft tried to attack the Tramways Committee by demanding longer rides for penny fares. This, he said, was the logical conclusion in resolution passed the previous month in favour of 1½d. fares. Alderman Bailey pointed out each councillor could table a resolution for his particular ward, and a resolution for all at present. There were no penny fares for any stage under a mile in length.

Birth Control.

The Health Committee had decided to support the following resolution:—

That this Council recognises that the question of family limitation is one to be settled by the individuals concerned.

It further recognises, however, that a demand exists among working-class married women for reliable and private information as to methods of family limitation, and places on record its opinion that such married women should not be prevented by lack of means from obtaining the help they desire. It therefore calls upon the Ministry of Health to allow those municipalities who wish to do so, to provide facilities for such information through the public services.

Councillor Mrs. Longden moved an amendment. She suggested that the use of birth control methods was possibly the cause of the increased maternal mortality. She did not think such advice would be of any value whatever. In cases of unnecessary childbirth, the matter was one for a private physician of wide experience and not for maternity clinics. All doctors were not specially skilled in gynecology (science relating to women).

Alderman Barton referred to a book on maternity control by the Women's Co-operative Guild some years ago, giving the experiences of working mothers and the horrors it revealed.

What they proposed was that the right knowledge should be given by the right people, the doctors, and so avoid resort to methods that unavoidably led to suffering and maternal mortality. The doctors were there to help the mothers and give them advice, and he did not see why they should not give advice on this subject if they considered it necessary.

Councillor Asbury also gave a crushing reply to other criticisms. There were people, as for example, feeble-minded, or released from mental hospitals, who should not have children. There were children born whose lives were one round of disease and suffering, and it would be a blessing to the community and themselves if they had not come into existence at all. The number of abortion cases rose year by year and these could be avoided by knowledge of contraception.

Councillor Robinson supported the working class had to rationalise their families. The amendment was defeated, and the Health Committee's resolution carried.

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JOHN GALSWORTHY: NO VELICIST AND PLAYWRIGHT

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"The Silver Box."
This starts the series, and is an old favourite. In fact, some half-dozen or so are very popular,—"Strife," "The Skin Game," and "Loyalists," are as famous as "The Merchant of Venice." Perhaps Galsworthy is not so fine a playwright as he is novelist; but that would be a great achievement! At any rate, here is a range of very good plays that are as readable as a novel. Their varied and leisurely well-to-do to the simple rustic; and his searching outlook on human life and its avenues proves their author to be a man of very wide experience of human frailties. From the spick-and-span and leisurely well-to-do to the simple rustic; and his searching outlook on human life and its avenues proves their author to be a man of very wide experience of human frailties. From the spick-and-span and leisurely well-to-do to the simple rustic; and his searching outlook on human life and its avenues proves their author to be a man of very wide experience of human frailties.

God lighted the zun in 'eaven far,
Lighted the virely, and the star.
My 'eart 'T' lighted not!
God lighted the virely fur lambs to play,
Lighted the bright strams, 'an the mny.
My 'eart 'T' lighted not!
God lighted the mune, the Arab's wy.
He lighted to-morrer, 'n to-day.
My 'eart 'T' s'it vortog 't!

The War.
These plays give us (one thinks) far more insight into the opinions and feelings of Galsworthy than can be obtained from his novels. There are some rather searching remarks on the war, for example, which show that he has had his eyes wide open. Thus in "The Foundations," we have one character addressing another—
"Talk of your sacrifices in the war—didn't put you on your honour, and you got stout on it. Rations—not 'arf."
And again—
"Shall I tell you why I favour the governor? Because, with all his pomp, he is a gentleman as much as I am."
I've had experience with him in the war and out. Why! he didn't

even hate the Hun, not as he ought. I tell you he's no Christian."
"Well, for evermore—"
"And he never will be. He's got too soft a heart."
That, surely, is a view of "churchianity" that is not only clear, but penetrating.

Extracts.
But perhaps extracts are hardly reliable as indicators of opinion. If so, the case, it remains true that the evident purpose of Galsworthy in his plays is to bring home fundamental truths which have either been ignored or are in danger of being utterly forgotten in our social life. His manifest sympathy for the underdog and his clear revealing of certain social shams are plain enough for all to see. An artist brings his pen, he never writes a play for the moral it is intended to convey.

Above everything else, it is the social spirit of to-day that Galsworthy seeks to expose and subtly condemn. He sees men as products of class and breeding; he observes and reports upon the fact that environment effectively shapes life and character. The rich and the poverty-stricken man are alike the prey of society; and the cure is a deep social and spiritual thing. To him, human civilization, however just, seems to be a futile weapon. He does not blame, nor does he praise where praise is apparently due.

Education.
It is the consciousness of wrong that he seeks to awaken in his readers. The busy conclusions of everyday life, the thoughtlessness of the rich for the poor and the well-placed for the struggling man are brought out in clear relief. First get people to know. Let them have a touch of that larger education which reveals men of all ranks to each other: out of that revelation will spring pity, thoughtfulness, will, and organised power. Behind the scenes he is busy doing what all the finer politicians cannot by themselves achieve; he is helping to refine the spirit which can welcome and work to action after laws. His is not the work of either politician or preacher, but he has kneaded the leaven of nobler ideas in the finely-wrought portrayal of human action in certain of his plays. When the results of the hearings can never do of itself he has set himself to prepare for. Receptive minds will garner from his rich experience, gain new sympathies, and generate new impulses. Achievement as he understands it is primarily a thing of the spirit. B.

POLITICS AND TRADE.

"The Grocers' Review" of March 8th contains a report of the thanks extended by the Birmingham Grocers' Association to Mr. P. J. Hanon, M.P., one of the Conservative members for the city, for "the splendid help he had given to the whole trading community," by opposing the Co-operatives' Bill.
In reply Mr. Hanon said: "I shall use every means in my power to prevent any attack being made upon the private traders of the city."
The President of the Birmingham Grocers' Association added that it was a feather in the cap of the Grocers' Federation that the opposition to the Bill has been so successful.

ANTI-TRUST BILL.

DANISH PROPOSAL.

The Danish Government is submitting to Parliament a Bill dealing with the control of trusts. Under the provisions of the Bill such organizations will in future be regarded as the property of the State. It is provided that a board of supervisors shall be registered for submitting periodical reports to the Ministry of Commerce regarding the marketing policy pursued by the trust. The Bill has aroused considerable opposition in Danish business circles.

is the title of a book by John Galsworthy, some of whose work is well known amongst our readers. Recently published in London, this present volume is an enormous bargain at its price, 8s. 6d. Three long complete novels and two shorter stories, and all printed and bound in good style—why, it is less than the price of trash!

A similar volume ("The Forsyte Saga") preceded this, and now we carry on the development of lives and characters as portrayed in the earlier books. First comes "The White Monkey," a piece of literary craftsmanship of the highest order. There is a delicacy of phrasing and an occasional gleam of line humour that not only keeps the reader's interest from page to page throughout, but gives him the sense of reading a classic. If Galsworthy would about a monkey, it needs to be a superlative one; not the ordinary reddy-brown variety. And—a white monkey, with beautiful eyes, sucking dry the fruits of life and throwing away the rinds. The book is of the after-war period, when this kind of philosophy seemed to have abounded, and it is perhaps a Victorian view that life must not only be serious, but solemn. The war change is summed up in Wilfred Desert's description: "We're frightfully self-conscious about art and about our development in the cinema. We're nuts on peace—and all we're doing about it is to perfect poison gas."

Is Life an Orange?

This kind of shattering criticism to-day reveals to us some of the attitude of Galsworthy himself. He has a temper at once progressive and restrained, a sort of impatience with humanity which makes allowance for all the same. His feelings are always disciplined, and in these later works of his there is a larger humour at the queer things of life.

"A Silent Whodg."

This shorter story—called an "Interlude" by White Manley with the next novel, "The Silver Spoon," is the same as that of "The Skin Game," which touches pitch shall be defied. Yet the writer is never a "sermoniser," he could not be a pro-

"CUTTING ICE."

"CUTTING ICE," published by the War Resisters' International, 12, Abbey-road, Enfield, Middlesex, price 6d. (post free 7d.), is a charming little book. Without a waste word, Rumbun Brown (Hon. Secretary, War Resisters' International) tells a remarkable story. War resistance is a fact which has got to be reckoned with. A sharp distinction is made between the conscientious objector and war resister. No interest is shown in keeping one's own hands clean and martyrdom is regarded as incidental. "The whole emphasis of the book is thrown upon effectiveness and a great social service. While the immediate objective of war resistance is to stop war and resort to animal violence, the ultimate ideal is shown as the establishment of a new social order where all shall co-operate for the common good. War resistance is shown as the gateway, rather than the goal, towards the righting of wrongs."
Fenner Brockway, M.P., is quoted as saying: "The right way to resist tyranny is not to kill the tyrant but to refuse to co-operate in his tyranny." This, in a nutshell, is the method of war resistance. Men are to-day in prison in almost every civilized country for refusing military training, and in no less than fifty-three countries war resisters are now co-operating. They are not drawn from any one class of people, but can be found in the ranks of almost every religion, as well as in the ranks of Socialists, Anarchists, and Free-thinkers. The remarkable progress during a few short years of this movement is here set out in a beautifully printed little volume which everyone who has had enough of war ought to read.

"A MODERN COMEDY"

pagandist. The truth he has to deliver is so well-embodied in a tale as to make it a piece of life itself. There is a good deal of the subtlety of Anatole France in the style. In fact, we have no writer who so nearly represents the style of the famous Frenchman as does Galsworthy. There are differences, of course; but these two very separate countries appear to have much the same purpose and method.

A further "interlude" spans the gap between "The Silver Spoon" and the final long novel, "Swan Song." This last was published as a separate novel for the first time in 1928.

Galsworthy Himself.

Enough has been said to make it clear that Galsworthy is a man of worth having, and for the sake of those who know nothing of Galsworthy himself it may be worth while to add a few notes on his private life. He was born a "silver spoon" and the added advantage that it was in his mouth! The son of a prominent London lawyer, he was at first sent to Oxford, but instead of taking up the Law as he had intended, he was repelled by its dullness. He made a roving trip round the world in 1891-93, on the sailing ship "Torrazza," voyaging from Australia to South Africa. Joseph Conrad, working as a sailor, was on that same ship, and a friendship rose between the two of them that did not end till Conrad's death in 1924.

His life is one of comparative retirement, and he apparently desires no spectacular position. He could not imagine him as a politician; from serene heights his untroubled spirit looks out upon humanity with a far-seeing and dispassionate eye. He is "superior" in his criticisms and philosophy. He has sympathy and understanding when he deals with the poor and the masses; he is not content to appear simply on top of the chief evils of the age in the one word "injustice." He is aware of the practical difficulties in the way of social improvements, but his work is to make quick clear the play of circumstance upon men and women, and its reaction in their lives. This, indeed, is a great work, and he does it well.

The Politician.

One of his characters is a politician—Michael Mont—one of the well-meaning but rather weak politicians of all familiar with. As both a man and member of Parliament, Michael Mont is decidedly "average"; and the best we can say of him for the work of representation is that his intentions were better than his convictions. His wife, Fleur, is one of the "bright young things" order of mortals who was more or less of a trial to everybody, and even to herself. We are in debt to Mr. Galsworthy and his publishers for this very large book at a relatively small price. B.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

holds its national conference at Buxton. Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P., the Junior Leader of the Treasury and one of the Government, will be present. A feature of the annual report which will be presented to the conference is that no fewer than thirty-three societies and organisations have been added to the party's membership during the last year. The resolutions which came before the conference cover wide ranges of political topics, and show that it has been making its influence felt in the life of the nation.

A feature of the conference will be a paper read by Alderman F. Hayward (Chairman of the Central Co-operative Union) on "The Co-operative Movement and its Political Implications." Alderman Hayward will, it is anticipated, show in striking fashion the necessity for State intervention to ensure fair play for the Co-operative Movement in the interests of all consumers.

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MESSAGE OF HOPE IN THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S
NEW ESTIMATES.

DEPARTMENTAL Estimates for the coming year, issued by the Labour Government recently, contain a message of hope for the nation. The expenditure on warships is reduced by over £4,000,000, while that on education is increased by more than £4,500,000.

Big Education Increase.

The Education Estimates show that £3,509,754 extra is to be spent on education by the Board of Education, and £1,033,337 extra on Public Education in Scotland.

The main increases in the Board of Education estimates consist of Grants for elementary education increased by £2,123,600 to £45,405,633.

Grants for higher education increased by £1,405,540 to £7,197,422. There are also increases in the amount set aside for pensions to teachers, and for scholarships and maintenance allowances to students.

Big Navy Cuts.

The Navy Estimates show a reduction of £4,125,000 below the estimates for 1929. Their net total is £31,730,000 as against £35,855,000 last year.

The net decrease in the main-ly, says Mr. A. V. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty, in a memorandum accompanying the estimates, is to the reductions which the Government have felt justified in making in the shipbuilding programmes of 1928 and 1929, in accordance with a policy that has already been stated to Parliament.

- Five vessels of the programme of 1928 have been cancelled, viz. —
- 2 cruisers (10,000 ton type, with 8-inch guns).
 - 2 submarines.
 - 1 submarine depot ship.
- Twelve vessels of the programme of 1929 have been cancelled, viz. —
- 2 cruisers (one of 10,000 ton type, with 8-inch guns).
 - 4 torpedo boat destroyers.
 - 2 submarines.
 - 2 sloops.
 - 1 netlayer and target towing vessel.

In addition, the decision whether the three remaining submarines of the 1929 programme are to be proceeded with has been deferred until after the London Naval Conference has been concluded. . . . The effect of these

changes is to reduce expenditure on new construction in these estimates by over £4,000,000. As to future shipbuilding, the Government have decided not to formulate any proposals until the results of the Naval Conference are known and have been fully considered.

Avoiding Disastrous Competition in Air Armaments.

Although the Air Estimates are slightly up—by £890,000 to £7,890,000—Lord Thomson, the Secretary of State, in his concluding remarks in his accompanying memorandum, on the fact that "the increases of the Royal Air Force are of small dimensions, and are due to the earnest desire of His Majesty's Government to avoid disastrous competition in air armaments."

He adds: "With this end in view the consolidation of the existing units of the Home Defence Force will be the main feature of the 1930 programme, and the only new unit to be added to that Force will be one non-regular squadron. We shall thus have a breathing space in which to watch the development of the new spirit which is pervading international instruments, such as the Treaty for the Renunciation of War and the Optional Clause.

"The increases in various votes, such as those on personnel, quartering, technical material, and reserves, are such as are consistent with this policy, and are indeed mainly consequential on existing commitments which could not be reduced without impairing the efficiency of the Royal Air Force and the safety of its personnel. The decrease in the vote for work indicates that the programme of capital expenditure under this head is being advanced by even more modest stages. The increase in the non-effective vote reflects the growing incidence of retirement, which has hitherto been very low, as is natural with a new service. That on the civil aviation vote corresponds with further anticipated developments in civil air transport. This increase is modest, but is proportionately higher than the increase on the service votes."

More money for Peace and less for War. That is the policy on which the Labour Government is framing its Budget.

Sheffield Co-operator.

APRIL, 1930.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY.

The report and agenda of the Co-operative Party's annual conference, to be held at Buxton at Easter, is encouraging, showing the rapid increase of co-operative consciousness amongst co-operators. The Co-operative Party represents an affiliated membership of nearly 1,000,000 and the report shows the admission of several large societies into the Party this year. When it is remembered that, in addition to the individual membership and the affiliated individual membership through the societies, there are 400 branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild affiliated, it will be seen that the sections of the movement are becoming aware of the necessity of national and local representation for co-operators.

The reference in the report and in the resolutions to the administrative aspects of the Co-operative movement and the Companies Bill, show how the movement is affected directly by governmental action.

Several of the resolutions press for the passing of the Bill to amend the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts to give freedom for co-operative development, whilst denouncing any move for effective action against price-fixing associations, whose principal object is to increase the price of thousands of household commodities to the consumer. The action of the combined Liberal and Tory forces in the House, and particularly on the Standing Committee which dealt with the recent Private Member's Bill to give greater co-operative freedom, proved beyond doubt that if Co-operation is to attain its rightful place in British industrial development, representation in the House of Commons in such large numbers than at present is absolutely essential.

The Co-operative Party has proved, by its effect upon legislation and its opposition to privileged interests in the House, that the small amount of money spent in this direction is returned more than a hundred-fold, whilst the way is cleared for future development.

Under the Labour Government work of a less spectacular kind than that possible in opposition has been carried out by the Co-operative group, and it is something of a tribute to the Co-operative Party that three of its members have been appointed to Governmental positions, whilst two others hold Private Secretariats to Cabinet Ministers.

Whatever Government be in power, however, the necessity for increased representation does not diminish. This conference will show—as have previous ones—that the formation of the Co-operative Party was a natural development for a movement aptly described as "a State within a State."

GROCCERS ON THE INCOME TAX.

The question of the exemption of co-operative societies from income tax on net profits not returned to members as dividend or discount has again been before the meeting of the Newcastle and Gateshead Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Joseph Robinson, moving that a resolution on the subject be placed on the agenda at the forthcoming meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, said this was not a matter which concerned retailers only. The Wholesale Co-operative Society did not confine its activities to retail business, but acted as manufacturers, producers, bankers, builders, shipowners, carriers, &c. Anyone could make purchases and do business with the societies, but no income tax was payable on the profits which were made.

The secretary (Mr. Herbert Shaw) pointed out that on the previous Thursday the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said the proposal would not have his approval, and that he would not tax as proposed.

Mr. E. R. Newbigin, opposing the resolution, said the policy of the Government on this matter was quite definitely declared, and he thought they were wasting time in discussing a matter which he devoted to more serious matters. It had been said that the co-operative movement was a political movement, but it might equally be said that the opposition to the taxation of co-operatives was political. They should give way to the arguments used by the Government that the cost of refunding the tax to the millions of co-operators would be so great as to make the whole thing impracticable.

The "Daily Mail" Crusade.

A meeting of the members of the Walsley Grocers' Association was told by Mr. W. D. Burrows (the chairman), that they now had a golden opportunity of getting an expression of opinion from associations throughout the country, and also from individual traders as to the "non-payment of income tax by co-operative societies." Each Government in power has been afraid to say this, but the last Government was no exception. The Chancellors of the Exchequer, on leaving office, had said they were in sympathy with those who thought co-operative societies ought to be taxed.

The secretary said that last year the co-operative societies carried £9,350,000 to reserve, and they should have paid in all £7,000,000 in income tax.

Mr. W. E. Smith said that if the co-operative societies had to pay as in the case of their profits, they could not compete with the multiple firms and the individual traders.

The following resolution was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Avison, seconded by Mr. Price: "That we thank the 'Daily Mail' for the stand they are taking in reference to the taxation of co-operative societies, and their regard in so bringing these societies before the public trading community, with a view to taxation as private or multiple shopkeepers, particularly since these societies are openly dealing with the public in general. Both wholesale and retail concerns have suffered great injustices, and a big financial loss resulting from this unequal trading, which has driven many of the smaller traders out of business."

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The annual report of the Sheffield Branch of the League of Nations Union shows that there are twelve churches registered under the corporate membership scheme. Mr. E. G. G. Lyon, the secretary, will be pleased to supply details of the scheme to any corporate body who wish to apply.

The report also contains a resolution carried by the Sheffield League Executive, as follows:—

"That the executive committee of the Sheffield Branch of the League of Nations Union wish to place on record their appreciation of the steps taken by the Sheffield Education Committee for the enjoyment of international friendship and the promotion of peace, by direct teaching in the schools of the city."

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

NEEPSEND.

The monthly report of the Neepsend Co-operative Party contains many matters of interest. At the monthly meeting held on March 27th, Councillor Stokes gave an interesting and detailed report of the work of the various council committees.

On March 20th a delightful concert was given in the Parkwood Springs Chapel. Councillor J. A. Longden occupied the chair, and the concert items were rendered by the Crimicar-lane Hospital Staff, under the direction of Miss Robinson, the matron.

The report also makes reference to an organised visit to the Town Hall by permission of the Town Clerk, and under the guidance of Mr. Beasley, the Town Hall superintendent. There were over sixty people in the visiting party and the tour round the buildings, including a view of the Sheffield plate, proved fascinatingly interesting. Mr. Beasley taking very great pains to explain the details.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month in the Co-operative Institute, Manners-street. All co-operatives cordially invited.

The Neepsend Women's Section are also holding successful meetings. Recently the secretary (Mrs. Justice) entertained the members to tea at the Neepsend Institute in celebration of his birthday. A visit to the Sheffield Abattoir was also arranged in connection with the section and proved very interesting.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Mr. P. SANDROFF gave an interesting lecture on "Furniture" to the Hillsborough Women's Section of the Co-operative Party, dealing with furniture from the point of view of usefulness, artistic value, and its educational influence upon home life.

The members of the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute presented Mr. John N. Pearson with a wallet and pen-knife in recognition of his services as M.C. at the social, and in celebration of his birthday. The presentation was made by the secretary (Mr. Ballard), on March 28th, to the hearty cheers of a large audience of members. Mr. Pearson, who was taken by complete surprise, made a response indicating his hearty appreciation.

MANOR.

The Manor Men's Guild had a very successful year. In addition to the weekly meetings during the winter months Saturday afternoons have been arranged for the whole of the summer period. The guild meets on Wednesday in the branch-room over the Fretton-road stores.

ONE-DAY SCHOOL.

The Brightside and Carbrook Guilds Federation are running another one-day school during the summer. Arrangements are to be made for either Longshaw or Edwinstowe as the venue. Full particulars later.

CO-OPERATIVE RAMBLERS.

The Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers are holding the last of their socials for this season at the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute on Thursday, April 29th. Mrs. Stonefield will be the hostess for the occasion.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Co-operative Party is now a most flourishing concern, and at their weekly meeting evenings, they invariably have an excellent attendance. During March, Councillor R. E. Jones, J.P., gave a detailed account of Council work. On another occasion Mr. H. Moreton gave an address on the selecting of candidates, in which the speaker stressed the growing importance of constituency work as represented by the Council, and the imperative necessity of care in the selection of representatives for these responsible positions. Councillor P. Buchanan gave an address on the work of Local Government. On the fourth Wednesday, the meeting which usually takes the form of a social or concert, the Railway-road Co-operative Choir gave an excellent musical programme.

Women's Section.

The Women's Section of this organisation, which meets on Monday afternoons in the Guild Room, have been equally active and successful. Mrs. Womersley, wife of Alderman Womersley, gave an interesting address on the history of the United States Undertaking. Councillor Mrs. Tebbitt spoke on the proposed "Family Allowances." Councillor J. Williams addressed the women on the occasion of the proposed extension of compulsory school attendance. The Rothay-road Ladies' Choir were responsible for the musical programme on the occasion of the monthly social. Councillor Mrs. Gibb also gave an address during this period.

The membership for both the Women's and the Joint Sections is on the increase. Below is the April programme for both organisations:—

Wednesday, April 22nd.—Council Report: Alderman T. H. Watkins.

Thursday, April 23rd.—Organised Visit to Sheffield Town Hall.

Wednesday, April 29th.—Councillor R. H. Minihall:—Prisons—Past, Present, and Future.

Wednesday, April 16th.—Councillor W. Ashbury: "How the Local Government Act of 1925 Will Affect Sheffield."

Wednesday, April 21st.—Social Evening.

Wednesday, April 30th.—Mock Parliament.

Women's Section.

Monday, April 12th.—Mr. A. E. Butcher: "Hospitals."

Monday, April 14th.—Councillor P. Buchanan.

Monday, April 21st.—Speaker to be arranged.

Monday, April 26th.—Social.

BURNGREAVE WARD COMMITTEE.

The inaugural meeting for a Burngreave Ward Committee in connection with the Brightside Divisional Co-operative Party was held at St. Catherine's Hall, Anderson-street, on March 26th, when Mr. Harold Williams (chairman of the Brightside Divisional Co-operative Party) presided. An excellent concert was given by the Sheffield Ecclesiastical Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. C. W. Poppeltour. Mr. A. Ballard (organiser of the Party) spoke on the necessity of Co-operative Representation on Local and National Government and Administrative bodies. Many new members were registered under the individual membership scheme.

Prior to the public meeting, the Divisional Council met and appointed Mrs. Yelland as delegate to the National Co-operative Party Conference to be held at Buxton at Easter.

The next meeting is to be held in the Brightside Guild Room, Eden-street. Invitations will be circulated to all registered members when the date is definitely arranged.

NORWOOD AND SOUTHEY SECTION.

Grand Concert, Friday, April 11th. Rt. Hon. A. V. ALLENBORN, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty), to speak.

An event of outstanding importance has been arranged by the above committee in the Assembly Hall, at the Longley School, on Friday, April 17th, 7.30 p.m. Mr. Austyn B. Mettam will present the Don Amateurs in a musical comedy revue entitled "Shoebuck"—the show that has a tonic. Every moment of the presentation is packed with bright and interesting material. Their two hours of meritment and artistry greatly exceed the most care-free of seaside entertainers. The show is mounted with a lavishness that is not generally found in amateur performances. Lighting and scenery effects leaving nothing to be desired. The jury also contains a clever troupe of pure dancers of the highest order in all thirty performers.

Although he has other engagements in the city on the same evening, the Right Hon. A. V. Allenborn, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, has promised to attend and give a short address. Alderman T. H. Watkins will take the chair.

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FALLACIES OF SAFEGUARDING.

MR. SNOWDEN DEMOLISHES THE LATEST TORY STUNT.

"FACTORIES CLOSING DOWN BECAUSE OF BUDGET UNCERTAINTY" SHOWN TO BE A TISSUE OF LIES.

When the Tories aimed a vote of censure at the Chancellor of the Exchequer on March 12th, alleging that "the refusal of the Government to declare their intentions with regard to the Artificial Silk and Motor, &c. Duties was increasing uncertainty and distress" and aggravating the unemployment problem, they got more than they bargained for. In the first place, their Censure Motion was overwhelmingly rejected, the House of Commons declaring its confidence in the Government by 305 votes to 235, and in the second place Mr. Snowden brought out the real facts with regard to the motor and the artificial silk industries, exposing most of the Tory allegations as nothing but threats and tissues of lies.

The Case of the Motor Industry.

First, there was the case of the motor industry, and with regard to this Mr. Snowden said: "There appeared on February 20th, in many of the leading provincial newspapers a report by an investigator into the effect of the un-

certainty in regard to these duties, and this is what he said:

"If the Chancellor of the Exchequer keeps to his secret, within four weeks from to-day 60,000 men who are employed this week will be thrown on the dole." "Have these 60,000 motor industry workers been thrown on the dole?" said Mr. Snowden. Of course they have not. "On the other hand," added the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "the 'Daily Express' of March 12th contained an article headed 'Revival in the Motor Car Industry' which said: 'There is every indication of the turning of the tide after a long period of depression, throughout the motor car industry.' Salesmen smiled yesterday for the first time for months. 'Our contributors,' exceeded those of last Tuesday by as much as 50 per cent." A director of Morris' says, 'there has been a steady stream of orders throughout the day.'

Corporation with regard to its rates and electricity supply. They also borrowed a certain sum of money, after they had depleted their cash reserves, from insurance companies. That is the position of this company. They have been compelled to close down because of their financial mismanagement, and now it is Mr. Snowden who has closed down this factory.

"The facts I am now going to give have a two-fold significance. They prove that Budget uncertainty is not responsible for the state of these industries, and they prove, at the same time, what is far more important from the public point of view, the effect, the disastrous effect, which Protection has had upon these industries.

"Take the case of the British Acetate Silk Corporation. It showed a loss up to the end of September of 1926,000. Surely that was not due to Budget uncertainty. Then the Rayon Manufacturing Company lost £15,200 before there was any Budget uncertainty. The Scottish Amalgamation Silk Industry, another protected concern, lost £34,000 up to August of last year, surely not due to Budget uncertainty. The Scottish Artificial Silk Company lost £75,000. There was then no Budget uncertainty. These cases prove that it is not Budget uncertainty which is responsible, but the encouragement which has been given to over-production and the starting of new works which is mainly responsible. Mr. Courtald said that it would be a financial calamity if the duties were taken off. I should attach more importance to the statement if it was not exactly what Mr. Courtald said when the duties were imposed."

As to the Tory suggestion that Mr. Austen Chamberlain, when a Chancellor of the Exchequer, once made a statement in advance of his Budget, thus providing a precedent that Mr. Snowden might follow, the Tory Press and politicians seem to forget that on that occasion Mr. Chamberlain said: "I hope that the precedent which I set will not be followed by anyone."

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held a successful meeting in the Tinsley guild-rooms on March 18th. Mr. Ballard (party organiser) gave details of the annual report of the National Committee and resolutions to be submitted to the conference at Buxton at Easter. Mr. A. Pearce was appointed delegate to the conference.

The Secretary (Mr. G. W. Loagley) gave executive committee's report and outlined the arrangements for the trip to London on June 21st. An increased divisional membership was reported. Next meeting will be held at the Attercliffe Institute on April 9th, when Councillor S. H. Marshall will speak on the work of the Sheffield City Council.

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1930 Designs of Floor Oilcloth.....square yard	0	1	11 1/2
1930 Linooleums (Printed).....square yard	0	2	11 1/2
Carpet Squares (3 yds. by 3 yds.).....	3	3	0
18 inch wide Stair Carpet.....per yard	0	7	4 1/2

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Tweeds, 54 ins. wide - - - from 7/11 per yard.
Wool Crepe-de-Chêne, 56 ins., - - - 1/11 per yard.
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Rayon - - - 1/01, 1/5, 1/6, 1/11, 2/11, 3/11.	Rayon Georgette, 5/11.
Rayon Voile, 3/11.	from 6d. per yard.
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WHY ANOTHER £10,000,000 HAD TO BE BORROWED FOR THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES WERE:
 REDUCED BENEFITS. HIGHER CONTRIBUTIONS.
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MR. SNOWDEN DEMOLISHES CHEAP TORY ATTEMPTS TO MAKE PARTY CAPITAL AT EXPENSE OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

On March 28th, Miss Bondfield the Minister of Labour, introduced a motion into the House of Commons to raise from £10,000,000 to £50,000,000 the limit of the borrowing powers of the Unemployment Insurance Fund. This was the signal for a deluge of rhetorical slush from the Tory benches, whence one speaker rose after another to attempt to exploit the situation for the purpose of making party capital.

Mr. Churchill, of course, was not deterred from making a blustering attack on the Government by the mere fact that it was largely his rails on the Fund that had rendered its present borrowing powers inadequate to meet the present situation, and by the fact that he had already agreed that it would be quite a reasonable thing to extend the borrowing powers not merely to £50,000,000 but to £58,000,000. And although, under Mr. Churchill's leadership, the other Tory M.P.s denounced the Government right and left, not one of them voted against the Government's

proposal, and the resolution was allowed to go through unopposed. So much for the sincerity of their opposition!

Mr. Snowden, however, reduced the Tories to speechlessness when he wound up the debate. There were four possible courses open to the Government, he said, for dealing with the present financial position of the Fund. The first was to reduce benefits, and he asked the Tories whether that was a course they recommended. They were silent. The second was to increase the contributions of the employers and workmen. Would they support that? Again they were silent. The third was to increase the Exchequer contributions to the Fund, and make taxation bear the burden. They did not want that, either. "There remains, then," said Mr. Snowden, "only the fourth, and that is an increase in the borrowing powers." And the fact that not a single Tory voted against the motion showed that in their hearts they knew that that was true.

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A FEW OF THE THINGS THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE.

SANCTIONED Employment Scheme (£28, water, docks, railways, tramways, land reclamation, &c.) costing over £25,000,000.

Reduced expenditure on warships by over £4,000,000.

Provided £4,500,000 worth of extra educational facilities, including more University Scholarships and Secondary School free places.

Passed an Act to grant Pensions to 353,000 widows and many thousands of old people.

Passed an Unemployment Insurance Act which will probably give benefit to 245,000 to 255,000 additional workless people, and which increases married men's allowances and young people's benefits.

Given more sympathetic consideration to applicants for war pensions.

Resumed relations with Russia, with much benefit to British trade.

Brought the troops home from the Rhine, described by the "Daily News" as being "one of the most substantial steps to real peace since the war ended."

Signed the Optional Clause, agreeing to settle international justiciable disputes with many other nations by Arbitration.

Settled the Reparations question on a basis which gives Britain £2,000,000 a year for thirty-seven years in excess of what was originally proposed.

Extended the Rent's Restriction Act for a further year.

Brought about a considerable improvement in the National Credit, as represented by the much higher price of Government Stocks.

Cancelled the Tory Government's proposal to reduce the subsidy in aid of houses to let under the "Wheatley" Scheme, and introduced a Bill to tackle Slum Clearance on a bold and comprehensive scale.

Instructed Local Authorities, in placing their contracts, to Buy British Goods wherever possible.

Piloted to within sight of the Statute Book the Coal Mines Bill to reduce miners' hours, set up a Board to protect their standards of work, bring about amalgamations in the industry, and introduce a Marketing Scheme that will improve the export trade.

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Since 1907 the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society have stood for Pure Milk—direct from the Derbyshire Dales. Their Dairy is the most hygienic and up-to-date in the City, and the only one licensed by the Ministry of Health for the pasteurising of milk in Sheffield.

Q A post card sent to the Dairy Manager, Brougham Lane, Attercliffe, will ensure a regular supply—
WRITE TO-DAY.



BAKERY DEPARTMENT WHERE HYGIENE IS EVER THE FIRST THOUGHT.

All Bread and Cakes you buy from the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society come from our own Bakery—a guarantee of quality, freshness, and value. They are made from the choicest ingredients, and are the most delicious obtainable.

Our Specialities: "MILKOO" and "VI-MALT" Bread.

"MILKOO" BREAD is all that is pure and wholesome, supreme in energy-giving food value—machine-wrapped in germ-proof paper, thus ensuring perfect cleanliness to the consumer. Undoubtedly the finest procurable in the City.

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Q Supplier of Bread of Confessionary delivered to your door, fresh daily, in the districts covered by our delivery vans.



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