



The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



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LABOUR REMOVES THE "PAUPER" TANT.

HOW THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929, IS TO BE ADMINISTERED IN SHEFFIELD.

By COUNCILLOR W. ASBURY (Chairman, Health Committee and Public Assistance Committee).

WHATEVER criticism we may have ventured to offer when this measure was before Parliament, and they were many, it is now the law of the land, and it is our duty to get the maximum benefit out of it for the great mass of our fellow citizens.

In this article I hope to be able to prove that the Labour majority on the City Council have inaugurated a forward policy, whereby the minimum service is left under the old objectionable Poor-Law, and even with regard to this we trust that the application of Labour policy will make it possible for all who need our assistance to feel that there is no loss of dignity and self-respect in having fallen on evil times through no fault of their own, and confident in the knowledge that they will be treated with sympathy and wise understanding.

Provision is made in the Act for giving certain assistance otherwise than by way of poor relief, and we have set our minds to the consideration of this important question in order that we might take the first real step in the break-up of the Poor-Law.

Hospitals.

We decided that the *Nether Edge and Fir Vale Hospitals should be removed entirely from the ambit of the Poor-Law* and made municipal hospitals in the full sense of the term.

We were vexed by our political opponents, first, that this could not legally be accomplished, and then having proved that we were right in our contention, it was suggested that it was undesirable, because we should have the spectacle of a municipal patient in one bed and probably in the adjoining bed what they brutally describe as a "pauper" patient, where everybody would know and with all the disabilities which would follow.

No Class Distinctions.

We soon disposed of this specious argument (which disregarded the fact that they were all Poor-Law patients at that time) by deciding that all beds giving particulars of the records should be isolated alike, and the records kept in the office, which will not be available to the public for this purpose. Anyhow, we decided that it was a question of all remaining Poor-Law patients or only a small proportion; we preferred the latter course.

We went further, and gave instructions to the relieving officers that as from April 23 they were not to issue admission tickets to the Hospital Centre the prospective patient belonged to Sheffield, but to refer them to a medical practitioner, whose certificate would be accepted by us as their right to admission, and would avoid any resident of Sheffield coming within the operation of the Poor-Law Act, 1929, and give them all the status of municipal patients. In addition, all patients in hospitals will be provided with clothing free, which should obviate any danger of distinction between those who are poor and those who may be more fortunately placed.

We have removed Fir Vale Hospital "The City General Hospital," and thus removed the likelihood of it being

associated with the Poor-Law on account of its name.

Cost of Treatment.

We believe that this is a matter that can best be dealt with by providing the service free and making it a general charge on the community in the same manner as we do with education, because by this method the inhabitants as a whole contribute a fairer share of the cost of a service at the disposal of all, and, in addition, we have very grave doubts whether the expenditure incurred in the past by the Guardians, with all their elaborate machinery in collecting from legally liable relatives under the Poor-Law, has been justified having regard to the relatively small amount of income received.

Abolishing Inquisitorial.

Under Section 16 of the Act, however, we are compelled to collect such sums as we are of the opinion relatives can afford to pay. In this connection we are reducing the number who shall make payments down to the lowest possible minimum by dealing with the matter on the single family unit, instead of as under the Poor-Law which compelled contributions from the father, grandfather, mother, grandmother, husband, and child, if the Guardians considered they were able, in those cases where the free cost of treatment had not been met by the patient.

The inquisitorial methods of the past will disappear, so as representing a lady assessor for the purpose of collecting such sums as the committee feel relatives may be in a position to pay.

Co-eration With Voluntary Hospitals.

We have already indicated that we are prepared to enter into an arrangement with the Sheffield Hospitals Council placing contributions to the "rd. in the pound scheme" in the same position with regard to treatment for themselves or their dependents at our hospitals as they are at the voluntary hospitals. We are certain that this will be very much appreciated.

In connection with the section of our hospital's service relating to maternity cases, we have decided that admissions are to be accepted only on the basis of unsatisfactory home conditions, plus medical and surgical need. In this direction we venture to make an appeal to expectant mothers who may or may not require hospital treatment.

Assistance For Expectant Mothers.

On an average, seven persons per week present themselves at the City General Hospital, for the first time, when confinement is shortly expected. This is neither fair to themselves nor to our staff, who are thus prevented from organising and providing the best service for those in the providing the service. In the future, in our mind, with our limited accommodation—which we hope to considerably extend in the near future—that we cannot admit those whose home conditions are satisfactory, and whose confinement is expected by the medical adviser to be perfectly normal. We earnestly request expectant mothers to attend the various ante-natal clinics in the early

stages of pregnancy where skilled medical advice is available, in order that they may be relieved of anxiety, and also assist us in dealing with the very difficult situation with which we are confronted at the present time.

Welfare of the Blind.

We experienced no difficulty in making a declaration that all assistance given to blind persons in their own homes should be given under the provisions of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, instead of under the Poor-Law, because as readers of the "Co-operative" are aware, we put into operation a scheme in 1927 with this object in view.

Now that the Poor-Law is under the control and administration of the City Council, we shall be able to ensure that this is given full effect, and there is no necessity for any blind person to go to a relieving officer, except in a case of sudden and urgent emergency, and in such cases it is the statutory duty of the relieving officer to give the required assistance, but he has received instructions that having done this he must immediately notify our Welfare for the Blind Department, in order that all cases can be dealt with in the manner I have indicated. We trust that at some not far distant date we shall be able to extend our declaration to include the provision of hostel accommodation, and thereby enable those members of our blind population who have neither relatives nor friends to be provided with good lodgings and the advantages of fellowship which would follow in a scheme of this kind.

Mental Defectives.

In the case of those living in their own homes we have made a declaration somewhat similar to that in connection with the blind, and in future, apart from temporary emergencies, those requiring assistance will receive it in accordance with the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and not be dealt with under the Poor-Law.

We were unable to make a declaration that all institutional accommodation would be provided outside the Poor-Law, because we are painfully aware of the fact that we are not in a position to meet the requirements of the city. We venture to express the hope that in the very near future we shall be in a position to announce the creation of an up-to-date institution, planned on lines approximating as near as possible to being a residential hospital, which will provide good home conditions, and will provide for all our needs, enable us to bring back to Sheffield the large number of patients scattered in various parts of the country, and also permit of all mental defectives who require institutional accommodation to be dealt with as municipal patients and not as paupers.

Our Children.

We have under our care in the various scattered and grouped homes, and the nursery at Fir Vale, about 600 children, who certainly should not be stigmatised in any way as being under the operation of the Poor-Law, but, unfortunately, there is nothing in the provision of the Act which enables

us to make a complete severance. We have done the next best thing by taking advantage of the clause in the Act which permits of the Public Assistance Committee delegating any of its power to other committees of the Council, and from April 1st last all the children, including those in the nursery at Fir Vale, are being cared for under the direction and control of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-committee of the Health Committee. We sincerely hope that when Parliament brings the Act under review the necessity for making the severance complete will be appreciated, and that the law will be amended, and these functions definitely transferred, in order that they may be carried out under either the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, or the Education Act, 1921.

Mental Disorder.

This will continue to be a duty to be discharged by the Public Assistance Committee in so far as institutional treatment is necessary. We are pleased to state that the present Minister of Health (Mr. Arthur Greenwood) has intimated that it is his intention so soon as he can secure sufficient Parliamentary time to amend drastically the Lunacy Laws. We shall welcome this, because we believe that it is desirable from many points of view, even including that of recovery, that the method of admission into our mental hospitals should be changed, and that those who receive treatment should retain the full rights of citizenship, and not be brought within the purview of the Poor-Law.

Fir Vale House.

We believe that with the steady development of a progressive policy it will be possible to contribute in a greater measure to the comfort of those housed therein.

The mentally defective patients for the first time are to have a fair trial at the present time, by bringing them into line with those patients in our other municipal institutions. Steps have already been taken to provide them with a recreation ground, where they can enjoy themselves without being subject to the curious glances of passers-by.

The casual wards are to be extended, and in many ways considerably improved.

I feel sure that readers of the "Co-operative" will agree that we have made a very promising start, and with the editor's permission, I will deal with the general question of the administration of outdoor relief in the next issue.

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AT THE CITY COUNCIL.

BY ALDERMAN A. BARTON.

The City Council met on April 2nd. With a bundle of documents in front of him and his brow bulging with figures, Alderman Watkins introduced the budget.

There was no confusion. All was as clear as it was possible to make it, and even his opponents "could scarce forbear to cheer," as the post says.

I am not going to worry you with a lot of figures. Suffice to say that this year the new Act contains in the Guardians absorbed by the Public Assistance Committee; and the grants for roads and health services are amalgamated in a block grant.

Our opponents seized on the increase in capital expenditure in order to make a tirade on extravagance. This increase amounted to £1,768,837, but when it is recognised that £954,213 is for trading services, and so is not an expense, but an investment, which will come back, that of the balance £166,000 is for the new schools required by the new Education Act (towards which the Government will make grants) and £514,024 for housing which cannot be neglected, and most of which will come back, it is by no means as formidable as it seems.

Alderman Rowlinson challenged Alderman Blanchard and his henchman, Alderman Harold Jackson, to say where these items could be cut down, but they had not the courage to suggest anything. Alderman Rowlinson pleasantly chaffed them as to whether they objected to abolishing "the show place of Sheffield"—the Shambles—and suggested the ratepayers got electricity cheaper than any city in the country, while they had saved more in reduction of tram fares than they would pay in increased rates.

As for Ecclesall, they had legal advice, that they were compelled to charge the same rates both in Sheffield and Ecclesall.

Electricity.

Another attempt was made to obstruct electricity extension to Dronfield, Beighton, and Hackenthorpe. As Coun-

cilor Oates showed, the private power companies are set to snap up all possible extensions of electric supply, and it is up to public bodies to prevent it. The charges made would pay the cost at that the use of the current would grow rapidly.

A New Park.

Another benefactor, Mr. T. Walter Hall, has presented Sheffield with four-and-a-half acres of land leading from Whiteley Woods to Carr Bridge. So the roll of gifts increases.

The Revolution in Hospitals.

No more finding of grandpapas for grandchildren, and vice versa, but just a fair valuation of means will be the rule for Fir Vale Hospital. No need to see a Poor-Law doctor or relieving officer; and if you are a rd. in the pound subscriber, Fir Vale will be as free as the voluntary hospitals. Fir Vale will have no longer a Poor-law taint; it will be a municipal hospital in every sense of the word.

Libraries.

The Central Library is now "settling." Before long the Reference Library will be demolished, and the new structure will begin to rise. There will be, it is hoped, no dislocation in the service of books, which, for reference library purposes, will take place in the old printing department; entrance in Todd-street and Arundel-street.

Pond-street is scheduled as a one-way demerid area.

The Watch Committee has arranged a traffic control by which loading for tram-cars will be transferred from Fargate to Pinstone-street, which from Charles-street will be a one-way street for all but tram-cars. Refuges will be provided.

The Council passed a resolution to appoint a committee to consider the establishment of a central laundage department.

TRIUMPH OF MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE.

HONORARY CONTROLLER OF PRINTING DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FULL APOLOGY.

In view of the many statements that have been made regarding the success of the Municipal Printing Works in Sheffield the following report, which appeared in the minutes of the Sheffield City Council, will be of interest to our readers. Probably no part of the record of Sheffield's Labour Government has obtained greater prominence in the national Press than the alleged failure of municipal printing. We have on many occasions been questioned about it in different parts of the country because of the misrepresentation that has obtained.

The Honorary Controller (Mr. Percival Sharp) has received the fullest possible justification, and, incidentally, the department is shown to be a triumph of municipal enterprise in face of the strongest possible united opposition. "The extract reads as follows:—

To the Members of the Printing and Stationery Sub-Committee: I have to report to the Printing and Stationery Sub-Committee that, in consequence of the publication of defamatory statements concerning the conduct of the Printing and Stationery Department, I felt compelled, in maintenance of my own personal credit and that of the committee administering this department, to issue of the "Sheffield Telegraph and Star." The libel complained of was in effect a compendium of the untrue and defamatory statements which have been circulated of persons during the past two years. The statements alleged:—

dealings with the departments of the Corporation uses inferior material and charges as though no change were made

2. That printing is omitted and charged for as though it were done.

3. That in order to prevent any comparison of prices, the department is effecting changes in the form, size, and mode of printing in meeting the requirements of departments.

4. Finally, that in the tender of this department for the printing of ballot papers on the occasion of the last general election, which were successful in securing at a price nearly one-half of the lowest tender, and much less than half of some of the tenders submitted, we had gained by unworthy means information as to the prices submitted by our competitors, and had adjusted our prices accordingly, with discreditable intent.

Not one of these statements is true, either in substance or in detail.

The proprietors of the "Sheffield Telegraph and Star" have admitted in most ample and generous terms that these allegations are untrue, and should not have been made. They have expressed regret at having been the means of giving publicity to these statements from the spirit and substance of which the proprietors of the "Sheffield Telegraph and Star" dissociate themselves. They have agreed to pay all the costs of the action, and to pay to me, as Honorary Controller, the sum of £250 in recognition of damage done to me.

I present this report forms to you for the information of the committee, and I desire to assure the committee that I am personally satisfied with the way in which the proprietors of the "Sheffield Telegraph and Star" met the situation when they were fully informed of the real facts.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL
CO-OPERATIVE
Society

COAL
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May.

"Ne'er cast a clout
till May is out,"
runs the old maxim; or
in other words, you cannot
rely upon the weather in
May. But you may rely
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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

GREAT PARTY RALLY AT BUXTON.

CHAIRMAN'S LEAD ON BIG ISSUES.

"WHAT WE CANNOT GET BY CONSENT WE MUST
WIN BY POWER."

CO-OPERATION AND AGRICULTURE

SCENES of great enthusiasm marked
the opening of the annual National
Conference of the Co-operative Party in
the Town Hall, Buxton, on Saturday
morning, April 18th.

The annual report indicated that the
party is in a healthy financial position,
that its grip on the co-operative move-
ment is tightening, and that its service
to the cause of co-operation is meeting
with more and more appreciation.

"I ask the Co-operative Party to
intensely lobby to our own productions
and to educate co-operative opinion to
demand legislation to prohibit any
person or undertakings that obtains
legal protection of patent rights or
proprietary brands in any monopoly,
from withholding supplies or imposing
discriminating conditions on co-opera-
tive societies.

"If we find trade laws framed in the
interests of private profit in our way
then they must be removed from the
Statute Book.

"If new laws become necessary to
keep the road open to the Co-operative
Commonwealth, then they must be
enacted. The existing Trade Laws are
based mainly on the assumption that
the owner-producer should dictate terms
to the consumer and working producer."

In the words quoted above, Mr.
Alfred Barnes, M.P. for South East
Hamp, indicated the special friendliness of
the Co-operative Party when he
delivered the presidential address.

The conference was the largest the
party has held, and it was also the most
largely attended.

The most valuable part of the confer-
ence, in many respects, was the paper
by Alfred Hayward on "The Boycott of
the Co-operative Movement and its
Political Implications." The paper itself
was one of the most valuable papers
submitted to any co-operative gathering;
and we hope it will have a wide circula-
tion.

When we deal with organisations like
the P.A.T.A., our first line of defence is
to support our own productions. That
course is open to every co-operator; but
every co-operator does not know that the
very movement, his own movement, is pro-
ducing goods which in price and quality
are superior to those of the most widely
advertised rival lines. In the last resort
we must fall back upon Parliament to free
us from the iniquitous efforts of trade
unions and associations of manu-
facturers; for "we" in this case
represent the consumer. The case
summarised must not be explained through the
wrongful use of the combined powers of
manufacturers or wholesalers.

The Chairman of the party, in his
address, made two notable contributions

to public discussion on the future welfare
of the country.

He suggested, first of all, that there
should be a State fund from which to
finance national schemes of work, initiated
and carried through by the Govern-
ment direct. This expenditure might be
met, he suggested, through capitalising
the remaining borrowing reserve on the
Unemployment Fund, raising a national
reconstruction loan, or capitalising the
savings arising from the Naval Conference.
This last should amount to about
£70,000,000 within the next five years,
and that sum, it would be
so decidedly interesting to see whether
those who cry out for a large navy, and
are willing to pay for it, would be as
willing to pay that same sum to provide
work for the country, and necessary also
for the maintenance of the workers.

Mr. Barnes also made a helpful sugges-
tion for the revival of agriculture. It is
a subject which offers the only logical
solution of the troubles of the farmer and
of the consumer, for it brings both into
that fellowship which is necessary if
generosity is to come to the countryside
and to the town consumer.

The Party conference on the whole was
a useful gathering. Many subjects were
dealt with which touch the very existence
of the party; for if the party does not
make progress it will stagnate and die,
and the co-operative movement is too big
to let that happen. Organisation must be
pushed ahead. Publicity must be pushed
ahead. The public must know what the
Co-operative Party is and what it is for;
and when that is understood, the party
should have behind it every society in the
country.

Men's & Youths' High-Grade Footwear

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"BLANDFORD" BRAND
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ASHFIELD BRAND
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CO-OPERATE TO DEFEAT POVERTY.

VIGOROUS SPEECHES AT PARTY DEMONSTRATION.

YOUNGEST M.P. HITS OUT.

VIGOROUS, informative speeches were
the feature of a large Co-operative Party
demonstration held in the Town Hall on
Easter Saturday evening.

Mr. Barnes, who presided, said the
aim of co-operators in politics was to
harmonize the interests of life of those
who produced the world's wealth with
the interests of those who consumed the
world's wealth.

The people of this country were fac-
ing many anxious problems at the
present moment.

If they would only study the co-
operative movement on its rising
side, study the new principles it had
applied to trade, and apply these same
principles to the industrial system,
they would find that the problems
would disappear.

The Right Hon. A. V. Alexander
(First Lord of the Admiralty), who was
accorded an ovation, was a spirited
defence of the Labour Government.
Their actions must be judged, he said,
in the light of the fact that they had not
a working majority. Under these cir-
cumstances they must have control over
of their Parliamentary time.

Summing up a lucid explanation of
the Naval Conference, the results of
which, as outlined by the First Lord,
declared that, when the course of pro-
gress of disarmament came to be
written, history would prove that the
work of the London conference would be
the mark of a new epoch.

Mrs. McNair, O.B.E., made a human
appeal to those present to recognise the
difficulties and problems of the three
million co-operators still outside the
Co-operative Party, and to strive to win
their support by sympathy and under-
standing. The women were crying
on the practical work of co-operation,

and they must take the women with them.
Mr. G. Riddle (C.W.S. director), after
describing the growth of the Co-opera-
tive Party, said that there were out-
standing men who would not touch
politics.

What sort of leaders were these men?
Unless the leaders of the move-
ment were part and parcel of the Co-
operative Party they could not claim
to come within the progressive
category. (Loud applause.)

He was sure that MacDonald would
bring peace and prosperity if they gave
MacDonald power. (Cheers.) He could
say without fear of challenge that they
had to-day a Government that could be
called "the people's protector."

Mr. H. M. Gibson, M.P., introduced
as the youngest Co-operative M.P.,
said rationalisation was suggested as
the solution of the poverty problem.
They would never accept that rationali-
sation unless it meant that rationalisation
alone would make matters worse. (Applause.)

Mass production alone would not
solve the problem. With mass produc-
tion there must go mass consumption.
(Applause.) A Liberal-Labour-Co-
operative group would not solve the
problem. The very heart of the co-
operative movement was a challenge to
the idea of competition, and unless they
recognised it as a challenge, they were
going to fail.

He was not going to regard the
Co-operative Party as the tail end of
the Labour Party. There was only
one place where the co-operative idea
could develop thoroughly. That was
the planet.

Secured had converted the world into
a neighbourhood. He charged the Co-
operative Party with the task of ensur-
ing that that neighbourhood would
become a brotherhood. (Loud applause.)

UNDERWEAR
and **HOSIERY**
OF IRRESISTIBLE APPEAL.

Smile at the Rigours of Our English
Climate by being Clad in Pure Wool

Always Insist on Co-operative Production

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Brand—YOUR PROTECTION

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Once you have seen it, you must get it regularly.

Why?

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"THE MILLICENT," which costs sixpence, and beats the market at a shilling. Order it at your co-operative stores, bookstall, or railway bookstall.

ASK AT YOUR STORES FOR

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Made by HIGAM FERRERS CO-OPERATIVE BOOT SOCIETY Ltd., Northampton.

THE UNIVERSE AROUND US.

This is the title of a book recently published by the Cambridge University Press, and written by Sir James Jeans. The price is 2s. 6d., but its value is far beyond what mere money values can express.

The Cambridge University Press is to be congratulated on the service it has rendered to the reading community by making accessible such a readable work. To Sir James Jeans, too, thanks are due for writing this comprehensive book. Its simplicity in the matter of style, and its proper fulfilment of one of its highest functions in popularising knowledge in this excellent way, and readers of this paper ought to make sure they take advantage of the opportunity now afforded.

The World. "He saugeth the earth upon nothing" was a fine phrase used by an old patriarch; and here one who has full knowledge of the achievements of mankind into the structure of the physical universe expounds the phrase. Surely there could be no book which would better help in expanding men's minds, no subject fitter to create wonder and awe, no finer corrective of arrogant pride than this. In such amazingly stupendous heights and depths and through such inconceivable ages, what trifles is the blue blood that prizes itself on "coming over with the Conqueror." Yet vast as is the universe so graphically uncharted, it is a question whether the trumping mass of man is not the more to be wondered at. "The world began in our knowledge as the world of all with our senses, and starts as its inferior attendants to give light, warmth, and the splendour of the sky. But the sky has vanished, the earth has become but a speck of dust floating in the majestic cathedral of the universe about us. Design, shape, direction, have become visible in what were once the invisible confines of space. Unimaginable distance has given up some of its greater secrets to the searchings and prying of inquisitive men who inhabit the speck of dust! Surely, after this, poverty and crime present no real problem.

Broadcasting. Of course, staggering us is the cumulative store of knowledge set forth in this book, it is but the very beginning of what there is to be known. With a calm and sure hand, an occasional quaint humour, and a clear and simple style, the writer unfolds the rich tapestry of the heavens before us, and we are forced to admire both the tapestry and him who unravels. It would be well if the B.B.C. would try to arrange for the unravelling to take place in a series of talks over the "wireless." For Sir James has a knack of illustrating the process with simple and popular analysis. What could be better, for example, than this. Construct "a scale model by taking all the specks of dust in London and spreading them out to the right distances to represent the various stars in space. The average actual distances between specks of dust in London is quite a small fraction of an inch; to get our model to correct scale, this average distance must be increased to about a quarter-of-an-inch, even when we are building the part which represents the crowded part of space. . . . If we build our picture in this way, we get a vivid picture of the emptiness of space. Empty Waterloo Station of everything except six specks of dust, and it is still far more crowded with dust than space is with stars. . . . On averaging throughout the whole of the universe, the average distance of a speck of dust from its nearest neighbour would be something like eighty miles. The universe consists in the main not of stars, but of desolate emptiness—inconceivably vast stretches of desert space in which the presence of a star is a rare and exceptional event."

"In this "Let us in imagination take up a position in space somewhere near the sun, and watch the stars moving past with speeds about 1,000 times that of an express train. If space were really crowded with stars our position would be as unenviable as if we sat down in the middle of Regent-street to

watch the traffic go by—our life, though thrilling would be brief. Yet, as exact calculation shows, the stellar traffic is so little crowded that we would have to wait about a million million million years before a star ran into us."

From the Big to the Little. After "exploring ranges of space which dwarf man and his home in space into utter insignificance," he turns in "the direction of the infinitely small." "So far," says he, "the range of the universe had the total range of the universe; an almost equal range awaits exploration in things so small as to be invisible." All solids and fluids are made up of extremely fine fragments of their up substance, called "molecules," and "a pint of water contains enough to form out to end a chain capable of encircling the earth over 200 million times." And, with each least we take, swarms of millions of millions of molecules enter our bodies, each moving at about 500 yards a second, and nothing but their incessant hammering on the walls of lungs keeps our chest from collapsing.

Even the molecule is composed of smaller grains or "atoms," and these again are smaller structures roughly on the plan of our solar system. The atom has its central sun, or "proton," which appears to be nothing more than a positive charge of electricity. Its planets are "electrons"—negative electrical charges—and "the speeds with which these electrons fly round their tiny orbits are terrific." Consider what has been said as to the size of a molecule, or, as Sir James Jeans elsewhere expresses it, that somewhere about 25,000,000 side by side would measure an inch! Consider next the molecule being composed of atoms, each atom being a complete solar system in miniature. Now we are ready to read—

"The speeds with which these electrons fly round their tiny orbits are terrific. The average electron revolves around its nucleus several thousand million million times every second, with a speed of hundreds of miles a second. Thus, the smallness of their orbits does not prevent the electrons moving with higher orbital speeds than the planets, or even the stars themselves."

The Illusion of Mere Size. All this, patiently and cumulatively worked out by the minds of men, supported by general evidence so varied and effective that one can hardly disbelieve, is clear proof of the fact that Nature is not under no limitations as to the size She handles countless millions of stars larger than our own sun: she can as unerringly handle the things so small as to be invisible unless million upon million of them are brought together in a mass like a pin head. Perhaps man might make an internal combustion engine as big as a cathedral, or as small as a pea, or a milligram. The limitations do not exist for Nature. She goes on making her moving systems of stars millions of times larger than the cathedral, and millions of times smaller than a pin. In fact, she loses us in both directions.

As the climax of this statement, let us take the following extract— "We saw how six specks of dust inside Waterloo Station represented—or rather over-represented—the extent to which space was crowded with stars. At the same way a few wasps—six for the atom Stalioles which represent the extent to which the atom is crowded with electrons—all the rest is comprised in the whole structure of the universe the vast inter-stellar spaces down to the vacant space passes between our mental patterns, and live in a gossamer universe, abundance, but of substance is rare." In such a well-illustrated and well-written statement as this book provides for us, our part to point out a small error. On page 255, however, Sir James writes about "bits from the lungs" (intended as feet of next column.)

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY AT LONGLEY.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON NAVAL CONFERENCE.

THE RIGHT HON. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, made an interesting speech at the meeting of the Longley Council School Friday, April 15th.

Outlining the attempts that had previously been made for the reduction of naval armaments, Mr. Alexander expressed his regret that the present agreement had not fulfilled all they had hoped for, but it had certainly done us much further on the way of disarmament than had been done at any previous conference of disarmament. We had arrived at an agreement with Japan and the United States on all classes of warships, and upon very much more figures than the proposals of the Geneva Conference of 1922. Moreover, the Powers had mutually agreed to waive (pending a further conference in 1925) their rights under the Washington Treaty to build any of the capital ships that that treaty provided to be laid down from 1922 onwards. A further agreement meant the scrapping of five British battleships, three American, and one Japanese. Another achievement had been a reduction in the maximum number of large battleships.

The greatest value of the measure of agreement already achieved was to be found in the feeling of moral effort created in support of general disarmament and peace; although the valuable economical advantages that also need not be overlooked. Without the Conference an expenditure of at least £50,000,000 up to 1935 would have been involved, in addition to maintenance charges of about £4,000,000, all of which would be saved by the scrapping of the battleships referred to. The reduction from seventy to fifty cruisers would also mean a very considerable saving. In submarines a saving estimated at about £5,400,000 in construction and £1,000,000 in maintenance would also be obtained. The same involved, therefore, by the Treaty would be at least five to six to seventy millions sterling.

So far from having been futile, it could rightly be described as a tremendous advance on the road to disarmament. Whilst the Naval negotiations between France and Great Britain had not yet been completed, he was hopeful that as the negotiations between these two countries were to be continued, an agreement would be arrived at in the near future which would fit in with the general scheme of the present treaty.

Mr. Alexander confessed his very keen regret that his proposals for the abolition of battleships had not yet been accepted, but they had gone very far in arriving at agreement on the reduction of the use of submarines. Another important point was the beginning of the recognition of different classes of ships, which will involve definite economy in replacement. The First Lord paid a very high tribute to the work of the Prime Minister. His confidence and goodwill had done much to make the Conference a success, and had created a useful moral effect on the foreign delegates. The natural outcome of a constructive friendship between the States that have a profound effect upon the peace of the world. Personally he was confident that a progressive line of disarmament had been commenced. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Southey and Norton Co-operative Party, Alderman T. H. Watkins presided.

(Continued from previous column.) "of a fly." This is comical, and every one has been set down because it was comical. But flies have no lungs! That, however, is not a trifle. The latest and hitherto most complete statement of what scientists say is that the universe around us is so profoundly empty as to call for our thanks and praise!

The Sheffield Co-operator.

MAY, 1930.

MR. SNOWDEN'S SECOND BUDGET.

MR. SNOWDEN'S honest and straightforward Budget places the nation's burdens on the shoulders best able to bear them. It is quite in accordance with his aim to abolish entirely indirect taxation, he has at least imposed no new taxes on the mass of the people, and even released the persons in receipt of personal incomes from some degree of income-tax. The liberal-to-averse few: brewers, super-tax payers, and those leaving big fortunes behind them, have all to carry a larger burden.

Labour and Co-operative policy. Whilst industry is run purely for profit the only method of securing some modicum of justice for the mass of the people is by adapting taxation on the principle of capacity to pay. The extra tax of 2s. on a standard barrel of beer is one way of getting at the brewers' profits, a totally unjust mess of wealth that is easily taxable without affecting the consumer. The increase in death duties, which will yield £2,000,000 in a full year, is taxation on the right lines, and calculated to return to the community wealth which they themselves have created for the benefit of a few. The income-tax, increased but not easy to justify, but regard must be paid to the alterations and the alterations which will relieve the small income-tax payer. The increased surtax, which will yield £2,000,000 per year, is a valuable source upon individual fortunes which operate to the detriment of the community.

Co-operators will be pleased that there is no increase of any tax on the breakfast table; and we are certain that the Chancellor's promise to provide for the valuation of all sites in the country as a basis for the taxation or sale of land values is a step in the direction of a long-cherished reform.

Altogether, having regard to the heavy commitments by the increase of social services, and to the wretched financial position left by Mr. Churchill, the Labour Chancellor has done remarkably well. Through the shifting of the burden may be a long process, it is evident that Mr. Snowden has set his face that direction, and further Budgets will tend more to adjust the differences between rich and poor.

TIBUTES TO THE MEMBER FOR HILLSBOROUGH.

"The members in charge were men of weight." Alexander of the Admiralty is a great favourite in the House. He is such a thoroughly nice fellow, dignified yet pleasant and friendly, and not one thought of side.—Miss EILEEN WILKINSON, M.P., in the "New Leader," March 21st, 1930.

"For several reasons Sheffield has a special interest in the Sheffield Social Conference, not the least important of which is the personal position of Hillsborough's M.P., Mr. A. V. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty. He has many friends in all parties, and I was not surprised to find a handsome tribute to him which appeared in the London 'Star.' Mr. Alexander, it said, 'is one of the most popular figures of the Labour movement. Nearly everybody at the crowded reception given by Mrs. Sidney Webb at Admiralty House, which he had led for the occasion, seemed eager to have a word with him, and everybody was sure of the gift of his greeting and the 'cheerful' smile.' (Here I quote the Prime Minister) which has made him so popular.'—GENERAL TORRES, in "Sheffield Independent."

THE NEW EDUCATION BILL.

BY COUNCILLOR J. GILL.

At the conference of the Co-operative Party, held at Buxton during Easter, I Sheffield branch of the Co-operative Party dealing with the new Education Bill. The resolution was as follows:—

That the Government be urged to press forward, as early as possible, the Education Bill, and the extension of compulsory attendance at school to the age of fifteen years.

I am now asked by our energetic and enthusiastic organising secretary to explain what is the main proposal of the Bill, what it means to Sheffield, and why its passing is urgent and imperative. Let me state first that the history of education during the past century has been that of a growing vision, and a gradually widening sense of responsibility on the part of parents, local authorities, and educationists generally.

It may not be generally known that the first Parliamentary grant given for education in 1834, when that great Reform Parliament was passed, the first Factory Acts, abolished slavery, brought the Poor-Law into being, gave the modest grant of £20,000 towards the education of 1,000,000 children, and the very small sum of £100,000 to build stables for thirty of the King's horses. Note the significance, £20,000 for the education of a country's children, and £100,000 for stabling the King's horses.

Contrast this with the grant of £43,000,000 from the Imperial Exchequer, in addition to a further £50,000,000 from local authorities which has been made towards public education reform since the passing of W. E. Forster's great Education Act of 1870. Since the war the conviction has been growing that the time has arrived for a step forward.

A Royal Commission has been sitting under the presidency of that great educationist, the whom Sheffield is rightly proud, Sir Henry Hadow. The new Education Bill is the result of the findings of this Commission. Considering that it was set up by a Conservative administration, its proposals and recommendations are a tribute to the personality and influence of Sir Henry Hadow.

The first and most striking feature of the recommendations is that there should be a clean-cut for every child at the age of eleven years—that children up to the age of eleven should be educated in infants' and junior schools, but that children who have reached the age of eleven years should be transferred to senior schools.

Now the question may be asked: "Why this break, and why at the age of eleven?" Space forbids the complete answer. Suffice it to say that eleven has reached the age when physically, mentally, and psychologically he is fitted to take advantage of an educational leap forward. Only too often children who remain in contact with their children fail to make the advance that might be expected, and the latter years of school life for too many children is little more than "marking time."

The proposal is to give every child the new impetus, and the new incentive that children get who attend the secondary or intermediate schools. Not only are children of this age to be removed from contact with junior children and given the outlook of "seniors," but the form of education is to be remodelled. It is a well-known fact that between the ages eleven—fourteen, there is much "chalk and talk" teaching, too much cram and grind teaching. There has been too much fact-staking; too much instruction, and too little real teaching of the life, conforming to a well-defined and circumscribed type; too little room for initiative, originality, and individuality; a teacher's vision has been crushed and smothered; he has

had upon him the deadening hand of one whose educational vision is more cramped than his own. Now the proposals of the Hadow Commission are very definite and specific with regard to the education to be carried on in the new senior schools. It is a new type of teaching that will be required. There must be more room for self-expression, both on the part of teacher and taught. It is definitely expressed that each head teacher shall have scope for his own individuality. There will be more practical work—in science, in craftsmanship, in art, in domestic science—a new conception of "learning by doing."

Let any parent or education enthusiast ask this question, what manner of men and women does the country need? Does it need men and women of high ideals of citizenship, of zeal for service to the community? Many of us who have been in the education machine for the past half-century realize that it has been an age of experiment, and we are only passing from experiment to what we believe to be finality in our constantly-changing educational ideas. Fifty years ago Samuel Smiles largely moulded educational ideas, and his "golden rule" got into it. "It was the age of the 'little master.' But we have now swung round to the great ideal of citizenship, and this will be the great motive of the new type of education."

But this new type of education cannot be carried on in the present type of school. The ideal of 1870 was a classroom school, built upon a restricted area in crowded surroundings. We think of such a one in the vicinity of gas works with steam hammers clanging continuously. It is the usual three-story type—infants on the ground floor, girls on the second floor, and boys up aloft.

The ideal of the new senior school of the future is that of a school built round a large square—a school having plenty of light and air. It will be self-contained. The boys will not have to walk some distance for woodwork, nor the girls to cookery. It will have its own laboratory, its own craft-room, art room, domestic science room, and gymnasium.

It would be interesting to state, if space permitted and sanction were given; what are the Sheffield proposals. Sheffield's programme has been in existence since November. The Director of Education has submitted a magnificent scheme, after laborious and thorough

investigation. The city has been divided into areas. Available accommodation has been required into, and the requirements submitted to bring us in line with the demands of the new Bill. It can only be stated that most of the existing schools become junior schools, while most of the senior schools have to be found. There are 17,500 places have to be found. The cost is approximately £750,000, but the Board of Education will pay half of this sum.

Now, why is it imperative that the Bill should be pressed forward with speed? (1) Because it is recommended that the provisions should come into operation in August, 1931, and tremendous work and preparation has to be made before that can be done. Plans have to be prepared and submitted, reconstruction has to be made. Estimates have to be drawn and laid (pushed); teachers have to be appointed, and children and teachers have to be separated from existing schools. But more important still, estimates have to be prepared, budgeting to be done, and finance and rates have to be considered. Delay is hampering the authorities.

(2) Delay, too, is impeding the chance of passing the Bill. Enemies are missing. It is a well-known fact that part of the religious education at that. Rumour has it that the Bill will be blocked or only portions of the Bill will be allowed to come within the scope of the Bill unless converted as matter.

(3) Alternatives are being offered which are mere red herrings drawn across the scent to detract from the vital issue. (4) The alternative of the continuation school is offered. These will not suffice. Patching up old garments is of no use. The old suit has been outgrown, and is out of date. (5) Wireless Lectures are suggested for children instead of the wide area and greater facilities. This is mere stunts. Children of eleven to fifteen are not old enough to receive benefit from wireless lectures from one they cannot see. Real education is only possible by contact with the full-grown and enthusiastic teacher. Moreover, it cannot supply the practical teaching which the Commission lays down as the sine qua non.

Sir Henry Hadow has revealed to us a great educational vision. The time is ripe for an advance, and we shall be untrue to the children of England, and the citizens that are to be, if we fail to rise to the great occasion.

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

Norwood and Southey.

Two party meetings in the Norwood and Southey district held at the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue, with success. On April 23, Alderman T. H. Watkins (chairman of the Sheffield Finance Committee) gave an interesting report of Council work, with special reference to the city's financial commitments. On April 30, Councillor Minshall gave an excellent address on "Prisons: Past, Present, and Future," making a very powerful plea for more sympathetic treatment and new methods of administration and prison reform. Councillor Asbury (chairman of the Public Assistance Committee) addressed the members at their meeting on April 10th, taking for his subject "The Local Government Act, 1920." On the fourth Wednesday of the month, which usually takes the form of a social, Mr. Alec Rose provided an orchestra for dancing, and Miss Adams rendered musical items during the evening. There has been a good attendance at all the meetings.

Hillsborough.

The meetings held under the auspices of the Hillsborough Women's Section continue to be remarkably well attended. Councillors Mrs. Gibbs, S. H. Marshall, Alderman Hawat, and Mrs. S. E. Kenzie, have addressed the meetings during April. The annual tea, social, and dance held at Easter was again highly successful. During the summer months rambles have been arranged, details of which will be announced later. The first of the visits to the municipal abattoir was arranged for April 31st. The party was conducted by Councillor J. H. Skilton (vice-chairman of the Markets Committee).

The section was also represented at the recent party conference at Buxton. Mrs. E. Wood (secretary) gave a detailed report of the proceedings to an interested audience at the party meeting on Monday, April 28th.

Attercliffe.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held a meeting on April 19th, addressed by the Councillor S. H. Marshall. In the course of an interesting speech on the work of the Council for the past twelve months, Councillor Marshall gave details of the corporation superannuation scheme, and also outlined the work of the school medical service. The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 16th, on which date a whist drive and social is to be arranged in the Attercliffe Co-operative Institute.

The secretary reports a further increase in the individual membership scheme, and gives a hearty invitation to all co-operators in the Attercliffe Division. Secretary: Mr. G. W. Longley, 7, Sanderson-street.

London Excursion.

The bookings in connection with this excursion, which is to be held on Saturday, June 21st are now coming in very rapidly. In order not to leave anyone out the last date for receiving bookings has been extended to May 14th. The arrangements include a four round London, reception by the First Lord of the Admiralty and Mrs. Alexander, and an evening trip up the Thames. Circular giving the full particulars can be obtained from any of the divisional secretaries, or from the party office, 37, Bank-street.

THE GOLD RALLY, run under the auspices of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Girls' Federation, is to be held at the Friends' Camp, Dronfield-Woodhouse, on June 15th, when Alderman T. H. Watkins will be the principal speaker.

"Nothing but the Truth."

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Girls' Federation has arranged a play-reading of "Nothing but the Truth," to be held at the Arcade, Ecclesall-road, on Wednesday, May 28th.

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY WITH THE CHILDREN.

GRAND CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL AT THE CUTLERS' HALL.

The Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty), had the honor to be in the city of Sheffield upon him in connection with the Naval Conference, found time to pay a visit to the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society's children's grand fancy dress carnival at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, on Friday, April 17th.

Mr. Alexander made an important statement on the economies resulting therefrom from the proposed Three Powers Conference at a meeting in his constituency, afterwards hastening on to twenty, afterwards hastening on to the Cutlers' Hall, where he was greeted with the loudest applause from hundreds of children and their parents assembled in carnival attire and mood.

The grand banqueting room of the ancient Cutlers' Hall—scene of many cutlers' feasts—was bedecked with all the colours of the rainbow, indicative of the general spirit of the gathering. There were 421 competitors, representing historical and political subjects; musical comedy, open, &c.; literary representations; film stars; popular songs, nursery rhymes, and the nations of the world.

Mr. Alexander was presented with a beautiful pocket knife—a product of the co-operative "Unity" steelworks, and, of course, made in the city of his adoption—Sheffield; whilst in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Alexander, the First Lord was asked to accept a huge box of "Leston" chocolates for presentation to Mrs. Alexander. Mr. Alexander, in thanking the society for the gifts, and those present for the very hearty reception, addressed himself to the boys and girls for whom the function was principally run. He was delighted to see so many of them representing the best that life could give. He had just left an important conference where they had been endeavouring to secure agreement that would tend towards the prevention of war, and it was for the children that the efforts of the present age must be bent towards disarmament. They had not experienced war and the horrors of it, but he could assure them that so far as the present generation were concerned they were anxious to prevent any repetition of that kind of thing. He trusted they would continue their association with the co-operative movement, which, although it was a peace movement, was in fact waging an incessant war against poverty. They were struggling

for a better state of affairs for the great mass of the people, and he was very pleased that the children so beautifully dressed and so expressive of the joy of living were associated with the movement that was endeavouring to make a fuller life possible to all. He could not go over all the subjects covered in their representation, but he must pay a tribute to them, to their parents, and to the organisers, and he trusted that that night would live long in the memories of the children, inspiring them to follow up the work of their elders; to familiarise themselves with the best in social history, politics, and to do things co-operatively for themselves. Not only to get the education available at the present time, but to follow it up, and the only way in which they could be successful and could help to transform society was to base their life upon the co-operative principle of "Each for all, and all for each." Life does not consist in what we get out of it, but what we put into it. The great success of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society was due to the practice of great principles, and he appealed to the boys and girls to carry the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society forward to success.

A mass of the hundreds of gallant children was arranged for the benefit of Mr. Alexander. Two excellent tableaux were staged, one representing the "Birth of the Co-operative Movement," and the other the "Robin March to Progress." Dancing, Punch and Judy show, and other entertainments took place. Ralph Gullis ("Africa") and Margaret Seizer ("The East") were crowned king and queen of the carnival, with the ceremony quick for such an occasion.

On the previous night, at which there had been 421 competitors, in addition to a huge crowd of onlookers, Almona C. W. Beardsley, J.P. (Lord Mayor), opened the proceedings, paying a high tribute to the work of the co-operative movement in the city. The Lady Mayoress presented the prizes to the king and queen of the carnival for the evening—King, Harry E. Massey (representing "China"), and Queen, Alice Clixby (as "Princess Alice"). A children's carnival on such a scale is somewhat unique in Sheffield, and it is to be regretted that there is as yet no hall large enough to do justice to such an occasion.

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The Co-operative Union has for a long time prosecuted an active campaign against those commercial rings and associations which strive to maintain by artificial means unjustifiably high prices for certain commodities. Price maintaining organisations fear the competition of the co-operative store more than that of any other traders because the essence of the co-operative principle is to return to the consumer the profits on trading transactions. The price profiteers fear the co-operative movement too, because it is democratically representative of consumers and therefore directly in opposition to the autocratic self-appointed dictatorship of manufacturers and merchants. For this reason certain price-fixing associations have sought to boycott co-operative trade by refusing supplies of goods or, alternatively, supplying humiliating and anti-co-operative conditions of resale. The Co-operative Union has, through its Press and at its Congresses and conferences, repeatedly demanded State intervention to put an end to the exploitation of the public by price maintenance organisations and boycotters of the co-operative store.

For some years the Co-operative Union pleaded in vain, although it aroused co-operative conditions of resale. The Co-operative Union has, through its Press and at its Congresses and conferences, repeatedly demanded State intervention to put an end to the exploitation of the public by price maintenance organisations and boycotters of the co-operative store.

The Lord Chancellor and the President of the Board of Trade have

SEARCHLIGHT ON TRADE BOYCOTTS.

appointed a committee to consider present trade practices which result in withholding from particular retail traders supplies of goods in which they wish to deal, or which prevent the resale of such supplies except upon conditions imposed by the suppliers, and to report whether, in their opinion, all or any of such practices are detrimental to the public interest, and, if so, what alterations in the existing law are necessary to prevent the continuance of such practices.

No Fascism in Trade.

At the annual National Conference of the Co-operative Party at Buxton at Easter, Alderman F. Hayward, J.P. (chairman, Central Board, Co-operative Union), read a striking paper on the co-operative boycott and its political implications. Alderman Hayward, who has been prominently associated with the campaign of the Co-operative Union to protect co-operators against the menace of trade rings and price-inflating associations, welcomes the appointment of the Government Committee of Inquiry into such associations. He said:—

Plainly this inquiry is the result of the representations that have been made by the co-operative Parliamentarians and politicians, who, alone of the democratic movement, have been fully alive to the menace of trade dictatorship. I feel sure that when the co-operative movement has presented its weighty evidence, the general public will have been educated to a realisation of the machinations of trade-restricting, price-inflating rings,

combinés, and associations, and public opinion will be ripe for the legislation which we have long advocated. We must scrutinise the report of this committee very closely indeed, and see that it is accorded the widest possible publicity. If, as we hope and expect, the verdict is in our favour, we must press it relentlessly to its logical legislative conclusion. We must see that the House of Commons does its duty in this matter.

Consumers are in dire need of some help from the State. Under the existing order of society, consumers are left without any legal redress at the bidding of trade organisations, which, while professing adherence to the principle of competition, are really perfecting trade rings to bolster up prices and dictate as to methods and channels of sale. It is time Parliament put a stop to the flagrant profiteering rendered possible by these

factors. Plainly, it is the bounden duty of the Co-operative Party, not only to organise the consumers' movement in the country on this question, but also to nail its colours to the mast, and, irrespective of what party is in power, to press in season and out of season for such reforms and safeguards as are essential in the law if the common interest of the community is not to be sacrificed to the purely selfish ends of rich capitalist groups.

The State must resume its old scrutiny over the means of life of the millions. As trusts and combinés swell in wealth, power, and influence the need for democratic oversight of their operations becomes more and more desirable. The nation which cannot tolerate Fascism in politics cannot allow Fascist Dictatorships in trade.

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TELEPHONE: 24154.

ANNOUNCEMENT

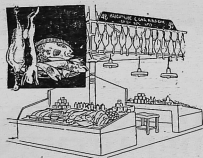
IMPORTANT

WE have great pleasure in announcing the opening of **BUTCHERY, FISH, FRUIT & VEGETABLE SECTIONS** in the **CASTLE HILL MARKET**

with a choice selection of :—
ENGLISH and IMPORTED BEEF, MUTTON, LAMB, and DAIRY FED PORK, together with **Tomato, Cambridge, Pork, and Beef Sausages.**

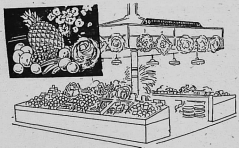


READY-TO-SERVE DAINTIES
Our Specialities, Fresh Daily—
Polony, Potted Meat, Brawn, and Pork Pies.
These are prepared in our own Factory, from the purest ingredients, under the strictest supervision.



FISH—Supplies of all kinds fresh daily.
NEW LAID EGGS, POULTRY AND GAME IN SEASON.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
Only the finest and freshest supplied



Cut flowers, Wreaths, and Bouquets of all kinds to order at shortest notice.

FINE QUALITY, PROMPT SERVICE, LOW PRICES

TO GET ALL YOUR MEATS, FISH, FRUIT, AND VEGETABLES FROM THE BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. — IS TO BE SURE OF SATISFACTION.

FULL DIVIDEND ON ALL PURCHASES.

The new market can be reached through both the east and west arcades of the CITY STORES

