



TO SHAREHOLDERS IN THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD.

All the people who will be entitled to vote in the twenty-four wards of the City of Sheffield on November 1st next are shareholders in an enormous business. On that day they will be electing Directors, who are known to us as Councilors. As we are shareholders, it may be as well that we should have a look into the finances of this very large business we refer to vaguely as "the Corporation."

THE COMPANY AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS.

In the first place, there are about 220,000 shareholders, or electors; whose "business" is looked after by ninety-six councillors and twenty-four aldermen. The "business" itself is a very varied one, consisting of essentially of useful public services such as tramway and omnibus transport, fire protection, provision of general education, health service, water supply, parks, recreation, gas, housing, libraries, museums, and so on. It is a gigantic business belonging to the citizens, and either financed by them out of their own pockets, or by loans secured from other

The next thing that can be said is that there are very, very few limited liability companies whose finances are in no good a way as are those of the City of Sheffield. The placard of a local evening newspaper recently made the simple and bald statement that every citizen owed £38. Whilst that is perfectly true, however, it is only part of the truth. If intelligence and sincerity had inspired that placard, we should also have been informed that every citizen had assets to the value of £65 with which to meet his debt of £38. But, unfortunately, most placards are misleading—not by malice aforethought, but through the habits of trade.

Put in another commercial way; for every £18 of borrowed money, Sheffield has assets to the value of £25—and the £18 is properly capital, and not debt. When a company "borrows" capital from its shareholders (which it does by their purchasing shares) the shareholders and the directors do not speak of this as "debt," but as an investment of capital. Sheffield as a commercial concern can give points, both in actual management and in financial results, to any limited liability company in the kingdom.

FALSE STANDARDS.

Do not suppose, however, that it is the duty of any municipality to run its business purely on commercial lines. For example, it does not need to make any profits. A company provides a service in order to make profits. A municipality provides a service at cost, and if it should make profits, these belong to the same community that provided them. This has been recognised already to such a degree that we actually make no direct charge for many services, such as cleaning streets, emptying ashbins, educating children, policing the city, providing parks and pleasure-grounds, and so on. We merely split the cost twice a year over all ratepayers on a system that is assumed to be a fair one. If those services had well been in the hands of "private enterprise," we should have paid profits

on all of them to select bodies of people who had financed them.

With these few explanations, let us turn to details, perhaps critics will say where considerable savings can be made. The total expenditure for the year ending March 31st, 1930, raised by rates, was £1,708,219. In addition Government grants increased the sum by £21,785.

Making a total of £1,730,004

COST PER HEAD.

You will observe that the total cost as given above (£1,730,004) divided by the number of people in Sheffield (518,000) shows that the annual charge per head for all public services is about £3. Consider that, and note that of this amount about £3 6s. is provided by rates. Education, health, highway, and sewerage, lighting, libraries, and parks for £1 8s. a head! Why, then, are people in Sheffield who pay more than that for a single box of cigars! It cannot be too often stressed that the amounts are relatively small for public services in a city the size of Sheffield. The only fault is that the poor are called upon to pay too large a share through our abominable rating system. Here is a summary of the costs of various departments, so far as they are borne by rates.

Year ended March 31st, 1930.

| Department. | Total Cost. | Approximate Cost per head. |
|--|-------------|----------------------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. |
| Education | 499,032 | 0 19 3 |
| Public Health | 192,140 | 0 7 4 |
| Lighting | 61,155 | 0 2 3 |
| Fire Brigade | 26,850 | 0 1 0 |
| Police | 139,213 | 0 5 0 |
| Housing | 47,809 | 0 1 9 |
| Removal of Refuse, and Street Improvements | 154,850 | 0 6 6 |
| Miscellaneous | 198,021 | 0 7 9 |
| Valuation Expenses | 55,200 | 0 2 0 |
| Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal | 94,206 | 0 3 9 |
| Libraries, Museums, and Art Gallery | 38,745 | 0 1 6 |
| Parks and Recreation Grounds | 43,975 | 0 1 9 |
| Cost of Rate Collection | 129,201 | 0 4 8 |
| Valuation Expenses | 9,233 | 0 0 4 |
| Loss of Rate Collection | 35,363 | 0 1 4 |
| Cost on Abattoir | 11,340 | 0 0 5 |
| | £1,708,219 | £3 6 0 |

The above figures speak for themselves, except the item "miscellaneous"—for which the reader must be referred to the "Official Statistics," to be seen in the public libraries. It is a small and excellent collection of about twenty-four pages, and can be understood by any ordinarily intelligent person, which is more than can be said of many official publications.

THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

Special attention should be paid to

the magnificent way in which the problem of the blind people of Sheffield has been handled by the present party in power in the Council. For the first time in Sheffield's history, the sight of a blind person begging has become totally unnecessary. They are maintained tolerably well but not luxuriously through the Council's organisation, and the thorough application of the Blind Persons' Act. Apart from voluntary subscriptions, the welfare of the blind cost us £13,352, which is part of the above figure of £1,730,140 for public health. Roughly, that is 6d. per head for all of us. No citizen escaped his due contribution in the payment of his rates. Compare this with a fog day, where the stinging and the motor car people usually escape. This is a burden of a new character during this past few years, but it has solved a problem in an intelligent and humane way. It is safe to say that no such result could have been achieved except for the fact that a Labour Council is in power.

THE ABATTOIR.

There was a deficit of £11,340 on the new abattoir, as shown above, but the abattoir was a new departure, and an up-to-date and worthy way of solving another pressing problem. In no case could a satisfactory abattoir have been provided, suitable for the needs of a great city, without considerable ex-

penditure that could not be expected to be remunerative until the lapse of some years. The antiquated, unpleasant, and increasingly insanitary slaughterhouse by Lady's Bridge was obviously a blot on the city. Private slaughterhouses, often placed where inconvenient to citizens resident near by, and in such cases more difficult and costly to inspect than is the case where carcasses are centralised in a suitable building, could not go on indefinitely in any city which cared for health and decency. There is

no doubt about the need for inspection as the following figures will show:

| Private slaughter- | Cattle | Cowen | Sheep | Pigs |
|--------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Animals | 335 | 48 | 1,365 | 907 |
| Abattoir | 2,833 | 307 | 5,606 | 9,370 |
| Totals | 3,168 | 415 | 6,971 | 10,277 |

The weight of meat and offal condemned was over 144 tons! Sixty-eight cattle (14 condemned), 15 sheep (7 condemned), and 6 calves (1 condemned) were taken into the isolation slaughterhouse at the abattoir. Clearly, inspection can be much more thorough, and the chance of disease spreading to human beings thus minimised. There is definitely no satisfactorily efficient organisation of this service short of a well-equipped, modern, and conveniently situated centre. Twenty years' time the citizens of Sheffield who are awake to the well-being of the community will be proud of a Council which followed this particularly fine piece of "rationalisation."

LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, AND ART GALLERY SERVICE.

It is high time that modern communities developed something in the way of taste, and counter-attractions as against the sobriety of the picture-houses and the obsession of modern sport. "The Pictures" have their own particular value and use, as have also the various forms of sport. But a community has some sort of duty in times when it "says" to provide nothing but softball and croquet equipment. For to do per head per year a small and varied range of books is supplied, with other aspects of a developing library service. Even a third-rate lending library kept by a newsagent costs 2d. a week for one book at a time from a particularly poor and limited selection!

THE SHIFTING OF THE WEIGHT.

As the various aspects of social expenditure are considered, the case becomes clear for moneyspending instead of less. In fact, the present cost of social services is kept by a newsagent costs 2d. a week for one book at a time from a particularly poor and limited selection!

The Labour and Co-operative Party do not stand for an increase of rates; they do press for a larger public expenditure, however. Rates, they consider, are too high already, but the present services at least must continue.

The solution is not by restricting expenditure, but by obtaining the money to meet it in a juster fashion. The poor are paying too much already, but the rich must pay very much more. All our economic problems, at root, are caused by the unequal distribution of wealth, and the remedy lies in the hands of Labour and Co-operative movement, as their increase in power, is to correct this.

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October 11th to 18th (inclusive). Admission Free

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When you ask for C.W.S. Productions at your Co-operative Stores, make sure that you get C.W.S. Goods. Co-operative Societies sell other goods besides those made by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Only goods actually made by the Co-operative Wholesale Society are guaranteed absolutely pure and reliable by the C.W.S.

Say "C.W.S." and
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The favourite cereal food of millions, year after year, is a food you can trust, like a tried and tested friend.

Shredded Wheat is whole wheat in its most appetising form. It is crisp, crunchy, tasty, and inviting, full of the very nourishment the body needs most. Always ready to serve. Just pour on hot milk.

SHREDDED WHEAT



100% FOOD

Britons make it—it makes Britons

TORIES AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

REAL OBJECTIVE OF NEW ATTACK ON
LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

THERE are many indications that the Conservative Opposition is gathering its forces for a more determined attack on the Government. Unemployment is on the main tactical issue, but the country should have no illusions about the real objective after the speech of Mr. Neville Chamberlain on September 20th. His suggestions include the following—

Maintenance and extension of safeguarding. A provisional emergency tariff with which to "bargain" with other countries. An immediate reduction of direct taxation, to be counterbalanced by the revenue from the tariff, which would unquestionably include food taxes. "Some sharp and drastic operations," including a drastic alteration in the unemployment insurance scheme. This is to be made self-supporting. In other words, thousands of men who have had the misfortune to be out of work for a long period in the depressed industries will come under a system of "relief," with the condition that "whatever relief may be afforded . . . ought to be accompanied by such measures as will preserve the recipients' fitness for work." That is to say, some form of "work" will be instituted.

The attack will touch the Labour Government is to be beaten out of office is unemployment, according to the Tory plan, and the hope is obviously entertained that if paymaster can be regained, turn it will be possible to continue to attribute the large increase in unemployment during recent months to the Government and actions of the Labour Government.

The Plan of Campaign.

An indication of the line of argument to be taken was given in a leading article in "The Times" on September 17th—an article characterised by extraordinary straining, evasion, and suppression of facts.

The Government, it is stated, regards the growth of unemployment with "the helpless and hopeless bewilderment of the spectators of an eruption." The fact is that whereas the last Tory Government drifted deliberately year after year while the number of unemployed remained over a million, the Government has brought about in fifteen months the preparation of schemes for all kinds of public works involving a total expenditure for schemes approved up to date of just under £130,000,000—compared with just under £100,000,000 in the last three years of Mr. Baldwin's Government.

The article goes on to suggest (following the lead of Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P.) that the increase in unemployment and the fall in overseas trade are "peculiar to this country," in degree if not in kind. They are "not undeserved and unprovoked strokes of fate." Therefore, the reader is to infer, they are both deserved and provoked by the Labour Government.

Recently the Empire Industries Association contended that unemployment was declining abroad at the same time as it was increasing in Great Britain. "The Times" solemnly accepts this as indisputable, without taking the trouble to ascertain the facts, although it admits that the generalisation does not apply to the United States. In that country, of course, unemployment has mounted into millions, coincidentally with the increase in this country, but the generalisation is just as inaccurate so far as other important industrial countries are concerned.

Unemployment in Tariff Countries.

In Germany the number of unemployed at the end of June was 2,640,681, at the end of July it was 2,765,458. At the end of July, 1920, it was 1,251,452, about one million. In Germany it is half as much again. In Germany it is

According to the September issue of the "Ministry of Labour Gazette" during July in Belgium, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and Denmark, and there was a decline in Norway and Sweden. Nearly 2½ these countries have high

tariffs. According to Mr. Neville Chamberlain, even the bare announcement of an intention to introduce a tariff of this nature would restore hope, confidence, and courage.

What is there in the experience of Germany and the United States to warrant this statement, or to support the suggestion that tariff prevent unemployment during a world slump?

The fact is that the increase in unemployment during the past twelve months in this country is due to precisely the same causes as the still greater increase in Germany and the United States.

"Daily Mail" Candour.

On the same day that "The Times" leading article appeared the "Daily Mail" published an interesting article to the following statement—

"Messages which we print to-day from all parts of the world indicate how the low price of commodities, consequent on large stocks, is adversely affecting business. With the world's output thus exceeding the demand the need is to stimulate consumption by a reduction in retail prices to conform with wholesale prices."

"The Times" article suggested that the Government is responsible for the undermining of optimism in this country, and the fact is that the industrialists who will stick at nothing to get a tariff system have done more than anyone to create depression and pessimism.

The Government, on the other hand, has acted in various ways to stimulate effort to improve industrial efficiency so that full advantage can be taken of the world trade revival when it comes.

Help for Industry.

The grants and guarantees for House Development schemes—railways, docks and other services—the important Trade Missions sent to countries with potentially greater markets for this country, and the formation of the Overseas Trade Development Council all afford a remarkable contrast to the indifference and ineptitude of the last Government.

A Taxation Innuendo.

No perversion of fact or subtlety of misrepresentation is apparently to be excluded in the Tory campaign against the Labour Government.

In a Tory Party publication the statement is made that "The Socialist Government has increased direct taxation by an amount which is estimated at £34,000,000 for the current year, and £46,500,000 in a full year. This additional taxation follows the increased expenditure for which the Government has been responsible."

The obvious intention is that people who do not follow national affairs closely should take this as meaning that the Labour Government is entirely responsible for this increase in taxation.

Naturally nothing whatever is said about Mr. Churchill's reduction of direct taxation by about an equal amount, and his subsequent seizure of the Road Fund and other reserves to prevent later increases which were attributed to the Tory Government. Nothing is said, also, about the deficiency of £14,500,000 on Mr. Churchill's last Budget. Mr. Snowden is saying that off in instalments, and this year's contribution accounts for £5,000,000 of the increased taxation. Nothing is likewise said about the net increase of the national expenditure of £25,000,000 due to the Tory de-rating scheme.

The increase for which the Government is directly responsible arise solely from the changes in unemployment insurance benefit and the £6,000,000 for the provision of widows' pensions to women who had been excluded from the Tory Government scheme. Against the insurance increase must be placed a large saving in Post-Office relief to unemployed workers and their families.

A Doubtful Tip.

The road was up, and the highway vanishing around court their midday snack. A jovial strength was passing by. Good morning, men! Good afternoon! Good evening! "Alfred 10-10" and the highway which had been described. "Who's riding in, go now!" he said.

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

Hillsborough Co-operative Institute.

This Hillsborough Co-operative Institute programme for session October, 1929, to April, 1931, is now available, and contains the syllabus of educational and political meetings up to the usual standard. The Women's Section of the Co-operative Party have arranged for addresses from a number of Council representatives, from members of the management committee of the Bright-side and Carbrook Societies, as well as a number of other interesting events. The first programme (lectures) held in the Guild-room on Thursday evenings, at 7-30 p.m. contains details of meetings for every Thursday from October 2nd, 1930, to April 10th, 1931, and includes mock parliaments and debates, mock city council, play-readings, and a number of addresses by the aldermen and councillors of Sheffield.

The arrangements for the Sunday evening programme details events very largely of a musical character. A number of choirs, orchestras, as well as artists have been engaged. Lantern lectures are also featured. Meetings are held at 6-45 p.m. every Sunday.

The Sunday morning Fellowship meetings, unique at least in Sheffield, are to be again conducted by Mr. Brigham. Communal singing, musical items, and excellent lectures on a variety of subjects ranging from "The Struggle in Field and Hedgerow," to "The Simon Report on India," are projected. Meetings commence at 11 a.m.

Junior Co-operative Party.

The Junior Co-operative Party, in pursuance of its policy in organising divisional meetings have now made a start in the Langley Guild-room, a section having been inaugurated at a social and dance on Monday, September 29th. Young people, ages from 18 to 25, will be heartily welcomed at any of the meetings, which commence at 7-30 p.m.

Burnage Women's Section.

The Burnage Section, which meets in the Burnage Vestry Hall every Tuesday, is rapidly increasing its membership. During September addresses have been given by Mrs. Kenne (of the B. and C. educational committee), Mrs. Mitchell (Labour candidate for Nether Edge), Mrs. J. Billam (ex-Guardian), and Mrs. Spriet (candidate for Neepsend Ward). Meetings for October: 7th, Mrs. L. Vickers (district secretary, Women's Guild); 14th, Mrs. F. Ward (ex-Guardian); 21st, Mrs. White (of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society), and on the 28th the usual monthly social. Also on October 9th a visit has been arranged to the C.W.S. shirt and overall factory, West-street. Women in the Burnage area will be heartily welcomed at any of the meetings.

Manor Men's Guild.

The Manor Men's Guild report a successful session for what is normally regarded as the "closed period," and has arranged an excellent programme for the winter session, commencing in October. Meetings held in the Guild-room, over the co-operative store, at Pretton-road branch, 7-30 p.m., every Wednesday.

Neepsend Ward.

The Neepsend Ward Committee continue their monthly ward meetings, at which the councillors and aldermen electors for the ward give reports of the City Council work.

The Cycling Club is still continuing its outings. Programme for October: 5th, Retford; 12th, Mattham; 19th, Nottingham; 26th, Selby (the final run for the season).

Langley Section.

The Langley Co-operative Institute Committee have arranged a grand concert for Monday, October 30th, in the Assembly Hall at the Langley Council School. Mrs. A. Spicett, prospective candidate for the Neepsend Ward, will give the first address. Tickets may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. C. Johnson, 76, Everingham-crescent.

The Women's Section recently held a

successful tea and social in celebration of their attainment of over 100 members. The membership continues to increase. Meetings held in the Institute every Monday afternoon at 6-30 p.m. Programme for October: 6th, Mr. Fisher; 13th, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Allen will take "pro and con" in a debate; 20th, Social; 27th, Address by Mr. Harold Wilkinson.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Women.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Women's Section, which meets in the Mount Taber U.M., Wellington-street, every Thursday, have fixed up their winter programme. October 9th, Report on Co-operative Political Summer School to be given by Mrs. J. Billam; 16th, Councillor A. Wells will speak; on the 23rd, Mrs. Burton will speak on "A Place in the Sun for Everybody"; 30th, will be devoted to the Municipal Election Campaign.

Attercliffe Party.

The Attercliffe Co-operative Party have arranged a Divisional Council meeting to be held at the Co-operative Institute, Attercliffe Common, on Monday, October 20th, at 7-30 p.m., with Councillors E. S. Nicholson, J.P., and T. W. Bridgland will address the members on the Co-operative and Labour Parties' record. All members, and prospective members, cordially invited. Secretary: Mr. G. Longley, 7, Sanderson-street.

Hillsborough Co-operative Circle.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Circle, which meets every Friday evening in the Guild-room at 7-30 p.m., has had some interesting debates during September: October programme includes: 3rd, Address by Mr. Joe Johnson; 10th, Play-reading; 17th, Address by Mr. G. W. Roome on "Travel"; and 24th, a debate. Membership open to all young people from 14 to 35 years of age. Secretary: Mr. Eric Organ, 66, Trickett-road.

MR. ALEXANDER AT NEEPSSEND.

VIGOROUS ATTACK ON TARIFFS.

THE Rt. Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, addressed a well-attended meeting at the Pyebank U.M.C. Schoolroom on Friday, October 2nd, on the subject of "Protection." Quoting Mr. Winston Churchill as saying that "Protection is a good starter and a bad finisher," the speaker said that there was an unholy feeling against Mr. Snowden for having increased the super-tax and income-tax so that £50,000,000 of taxation had now to be borne by those who were best able to pay. The purpose of import duties was to increase indirect taxation in such a manner as to relieve income and super-tax payers. Giving Sheffield as an example of the imposition of Safeguarding, he stated that from 1915 there had been an import duty of 33 per cent. on imported cutlery. In 1924, however, the imports into the country had been valued at £300,000. Last year imports were £200,000, that is, double what they were in 1924 before the duty was imposed. It had not kept foreign cutlery out of the country, nor had unemployment in the industry decreased, for there were still 3,000 of the 10,000 engaged in the industry still unemployed.

Co-operative Position.

The co-operative movement, he could quite definitely state, was opposed to Safeguarding, and would remain so. He would like to take that opportunity of warning workmen who were driven to believe that Safeguarding would be some alleviation, that to accept such a policy would only make matters infinitely worse, as had been proved in every tariff nation of the world. Regard must be paid also to the peculiar position occupied by Great Britain in the necessity of importations for the trade and industry of the nation.

Mr. Alexander outlined the work of the Labour Government as being remarkable, especially so having regard to its minority position. He was not there to apologise for their work. On

Peace and Disarmament; Widows, Orphans, and Old-Age Pensions (200,000 people this year had benefited as a result of the Labour Government's work); the increase of the Exchange Rate for Unemployment-Benefit; the provision of work up to date to the extent of £12,200,000, and by the end of this year of £14,600,000, in contrast to the Tory Government's £3,000,000. Mr. Alexander said that it was certain that could not be denied. The Coal Mines Act, which reduced miners' hours and established marketing schemes was of distinct advantage to the workers. A great new Slum Clearance Bill, the Land Drainage, and the increase of the grants from £5,200,000 to £9,000,000 for A-Forestation were indications of the fine work the Government was doing. The Education Bill, Trade Union Bill, and others, the passage of which had been blocked by organised obstruction, showed the Tory opposition in its true light.

Mr. Alexander wound up by an appeal of confidence in the Government and would not have been when the appeal to the country did come, to command the support that would put them in a majority for the carrying out of the great social programme that had been outlined on many occasions.

Mr. Alexander also addressed a meeting at the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute on Sunday, under the chair when he paid great tribute to the late Lord Thomson, and expressed the keen sympathy of the Government and the nation at the sad loss and the recent disaster of H.M. Airship R. 101.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

THE great International Co-operative Congress at Vienna will never be forgotten by the delegates and visitors who were privileged to see the Parliament of World Co-operation in session. Vienna welcomed a record attendance of 520 delegates, representing thirty-five countries, to the thirteenth Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance. At the last Triennial Congress at Stockholm, in 1927, there were 424 delegates from twenty-eight countries.

The proceedings took place in the Grand Concert Hall, under the able chairmanship of Mr. Valoo Tanner, a former Prime Minister of Finland, another statesman of European eminence, like Dr. Karl Renner and Mr. Albert Thomas, the secretary of the International Labour Office, took a prominent part in the work.

The delegates represented what the president aptly termed "the biggest republic of the world." Our International Co-operative Republic of organisations in forty countries comprises fifty-five million co-operative families, or about 300 million individuals.

The Wheat Pool.

Just prior to the International Congress the International Co-operative Alliance recruited a new and powerful member, whose entrance into the Alliance is of great significance.

As most people are aware, the Canadian Wheat Pool (its title is the Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited) is an organisation of the majority of farmers in the west of Canada, for the purpose of marketing crops. The bulk of the wheat grown in Canada is marketed through the agency of this great co-operative society, the organisation of which has been seriously studied by experts of the Co-operative Movement and pronounced to be in accordance with what are generally known as Rochdale principles.

In a few years the Wheat Pool has grown from nothing to a position of owning the excellent Peas organs, the sentiments of which are incontestably democratic and progressive. The Pool, too, has kept in regular and amicable contact with the co-operative organisations in Europe, the English Co-operative Wholesale Society being probably its largest customer.

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CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR CANDIDATES

FOR OWLERTON, HILLSBOROUGH, AND NEEPSEND.

The Co-operative Party have chosen their candidates for the forthcoming municipal elections in three of the wards in the Hillsborough Parliamentary Division, viz.: Hillsborough, Mr. Harold Wilkinson; Neepsend, Mrs. A. Speight; and in the case of Owlerton, Councillor R. E. Jones, J.P., the present representative, has again been selected.

MR. HAROLD WILKINSON (HILLSBOROUGH).

At a joint meeting of the party members in the Hillsborough and Owlerton wards Mr. Wilkinson outlined the Labour Party policy as being the substitution of the public and general interest for that of private interest. He said thought his position out very carefully and it had been obvious to him for many years that to carry out the work of a municipality, *e. g.*, efficiently, and economically, it was requisite that persons should occupy the position of councillors who were in favour of democratic control. Labour in this city had fully justified the confidence of the people, and whilst that was not the meeting to detail all the accomplishments of the Co-operative and Labour majority on the City Council, he was quite prepared to state by its record when the election came along. He was honoured by the request to act as their representative, and whilst he could not lay claim to great academic achievement, he did claim to have devoted the whole of his spare time to self-improvement and to what service he could render in the Co-operative Youth and other movements. He had always been in favour of direct representation for our great movement on local and national bodies, and had pledged his adherence to the political party's principle many years ago. After a number of questions had been asked Mr. Wilkinson's candidature was unanimously endorsed.



MR. HAROLD WILKINSON.

COUN. R. E. JONES, J.P. (OWLERTON).

Mr. Jones also addressed the meeting outlining the various committees to which he had been appointed since his election to the Council, one of the committees being the Public Assistance Committee. Through the agency of this committee all deserving cases were sympathetically considered and dealt with up to the maximum allowed by law. Mr. Jones considered it his duty that he should endeavour to assist as generously as possible all cases in need, whilst preventing any imposition by those who are prepared to take undue advantage.

A Straight Case.

He proceeded to make a comparison between the previous administration and that of the Labour and Co-operative Party, and ventured the opinion that the citizens of Sheffield never had a straighter deal than they were getting to-day. The rates were providing more amenities for the people than at any previous period. But for the discrepancies of the past in the way of borrowing, the present rate would have been considerably lower.

Municipal Printing Success.

We heard much comment and criticism during the 1927 election about the printing department as a "white elephant," and "cooked accounts," &c., which ended in the position that those who made these statements had since apologised, in addition to having to find a sum of £250. In spite of this criticism and misrepresentation, to-day we can boast the best printing establish-

ment in the city, which has returned a gross profit of £10,915 for the year ending March 31st, 1930.

Wholesome Meat.

Councillor Jones also made reference to the criticism levelled against the abattoir which had more than justified its existence. "The abattoir," he said, "presents itself to me as a very substantial insurance for health." If we follow closely the Medical Officer of Health's report and notice that from month to month is condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed by the Corporation; the value of the abattoir with its guaranteed surveillance of every carcass to be sold, will be appreciated. For it should be remembered that most of this meat would normally have found its way into the poorer districts as food for the lower-paid workers. The service cannot be fully estimated in terms of *s. & d.* Illustrated at this point the Speaker described in detail a visit to the abattoir, in his capacity as a magistrate, to see carcasses that had been condemned by the Bacteriological Inspector.

Direct Labour and Schools.

Comparison was made between the cost of erecting schools on a contract basis and the Direct Labour Department. Apart from the superior structures built by direct labour there was an economy to the credit of the department which amounted to £4 per school place, and in the aggregate £4,000 in the cost of a school. It was quite obvious in every one of the debates that the term "Direct Labour" was anathema to our opponents, and that the real struggle was going on between the opposing parties was not so much a struggle between Labour *v.* the rest, but a struggle between vested interests and

public well-being. This was the cardinal sin the Labour Party had committed, and for which they would be abused in the coming elections.

Councillor Jones went on to say that "we have a record that can be honestly defended, and we shall defend it with all the enthusiasm of which we are capable." If the criticism so often heard in the Council—and which had been shattered to fragments by explanation—is to be the line of attack during the elections, he was seriously concerned about some people's sense of public honour. He trusted that the Labour and Co-operative Party would never stoop so low in defence as our opponents had in attack. "We shall meet the opposition," said Councillor Jones, in the same straightforward manner as we have fought our battle up to now, never lowering the standard of public honour for the success of the moment, but always with a view to consolidating the present position and working towards the ideal of the future. The Labour Party had won public confidence in this city because it is composed of men and women who have a record of service in the cause of democracy. It has maintained that confidence during its administration because of its obvious improvements in the amenities and the health of the city. The credit of Sheffield never stood higher than it did to-day. The social services in the city were never better, and yet they only claim to have laid the foundations, foundations upon which they intended to go on building. Guided by experience, and a larger vision, "the children of the future," concluded Councillor Jones, "will erect the edifice which, we to-day only see through eyes of faith."

MRS. A. SPEIGHT (NEEPSSEND).

Mrs. A. Speight, who has been selected as the Co-operative candidate for the Neepsend Ward, has given eight years' arduous service to the workers' cause as a guardian. In addition to which she has acted as visitor for the National Insurance on behalf of the Co-operative Society for a good number of years. She

has been a member of the School Attendance Committee, and created something of a record in the regularity of her own attendance to this work.

Speaking at a meeting in the Ryebank U.M.C. School-room subsequent to her selection as candidate, Mrs. Speight emphasized the necessity of representation for the women-folk, by women. Probably women were more influenced by Acts of Parliament and lived more in a political atmosphere than the men. Politics touched every household commodity; the conditions in the home were moulded by the political circumstances outside. The woman had now got the vote and she trusted that the next election would see a larger use made of it than ever before. In offering her services as representative she could pledge herself to carry on the representation of the Neepsend Ward in the same effective manner as had previously been the case.

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RE-ACTIONARY "PROGRESSIVES" CHARGE LABOUR WITH EXTRAVAGANCE. SPENDING "TOO MUCH" ON HEALTH SERVICES. LABOUR'S OVERWHELMING ANSWER.

The main feature of the meeting of the Sheffield City Council on Wednesday, October 1st, was the unsuccessful attempt of the mixed Opposition to charge the Labour Party with extravagance in municipal administration.

The Council approved the estimates for the coming half-year, which ends on March 31st next, and fixed the rate for that period at 2s. 10d. in the pound. This makes the total rate for the year 17s. in the pound.

An amendment that the supplementary votes, amounting to £20,548, be not confirmed and that the rate be fixed at 8s. in the pound was moved by the leader of the Municipal Progressive Party (which comprises the Old Citizens and the Conservative element), Alderman A. J. Blanchard. He declared that the city was spending £2,000 a day more than was the case in 1905 when Labour first took office. The amendment was heavily defeated.

In introducing the report and recommendations of the Finance and Consolidative Committee Alderman T. Watkins (Labour) said that the total expenditure for the year was £5,609,659, a figure which included the £1,000,000 arrears. There had to be added to this £41,741, the arrears for the year ended March, 1906. Of this amount £5,077,000 was for the year 1905-6, leaving a balance of £1,010,988 to be raised by the current rates, which was equal to an 8s. 3d. rate.

A Reduction.

The estimated reduction of 2s. which had already been published was in actuality a reduction of 2s. 6d., and this was partly due to re-estimation and re-valuation.

Alderman Watkins went on to state that the outstanding receipts owing to the Council had been £120,000 in cash collected from £420,000 to £105,000 within the last year, and it was hoped to collect the remaining £145,000. This was a most excellent result, he said, and reflected the greatest credit upon the rating department in consequence of which the credit of the city never stood higher.

The essential services, he continued, had been developed, and there also had to be considered the increasing duties of the Council. Housing was being pushed forward, but he wished to impress upon the Council that a reduction of 1 per cent. in the rate of interest was equivalent to a reduction of 7s. per week in the rent of the houses. That, in his opinion, was the real way in which rents could be reduced.

In conclusion, he pointed out that the estimates did not include any deficit to be carried over to future rates.

Alderman W. C. Fenton (Progressive) wished to know how much of the rate for the last half-year had been collected. Alderman Watkins, amid laughter, replied: "£13,000 above that which was levied." In addition to the actual rate, he went on to explain, £57,000 had been collected of the arrears.

All of It.

When pressed further by Alderman Fenton to say exactly how much of the money which should have been raised for the past half-year had been collected, Alderman Watkins replied: "The whole of it." (Much laughter.)

Alderman Blanchard, in moving his amendment, compared the present position with that of 1905.

In 1905, he said, the Corporation was spending £4,800,000, and alleged the increase in the past five years had been £54,000. They were spending, therefore, £2,000 a month, £50,000 a week, and £1,000 a day; £2,000 a day more than in 1905.

Sheffield, like other industrial towns, was passing through a critical period, and no city had faced the difficulties more courageously or more magnificently. The manufacturers had also been magnificent, and despite the stopping of certain sections of industry, more men were employed than before. But was the Council helping the manu-

facturers? Was the policy of the Council one which helped or hindered new industries?

It was evident that new industries must be introduced, but he knew of cases where the high rates had kept them out.

The Progressives' Complaint!

Others were also affected by the depression; such as those who drew part of their income from investments and the trading concerns. The latter had been badly hit by the new assessment, and the rates of some of the concerns in the centre of the city had increased by 40, 50, and 60 per cent.

The Council must cut its coat according to the cloth. Yet despite the already greatly increased expenditure, the Council was asked to approve further supplementary votes amounting to £26,000. He asked that these should not be passed, but that departments must be told to keep within their original estimates. If any of the items were essential, then a diversion should be made from items which were not so important.

Superannuation Fund.

The biggest supplementary item was £12,983 as a contribution under the superannuation fund, which was additional to the provision which was made in the estimates for £45,000. The claim had been made that savings had been effected through reorganization of staff. If so these savings should be set off against the additional charge.

There was £7,616 for education. Surely out of estimates exceeding £1,000,000 this sum could be secured by diversion, and so in other cases.

The suggestion at this point that they might have a flag day was made by Alderman Albert Smith (Labour) and Alderman Blanchard replied that if the extravagance continued they would all be needing flag days. (Laughter.)

By supporting the amendment, he concluded, the Council would be making a picture of willingness for the rates to be increased.

Alderman E. C. Rowlinson, the leader of the Labour Party, made a crushing rejoinder to Mr. Blanchard's charges. Alderman Blanchard, he said, had given pictures of the manufacturers struggling under the terrible Socialist assessment and "ramways, while in the case of the Markets it meant that the gradually increasing margin of profit would be entirely wiped out. The increased assessment had not been passed on to the tenants.

Crushing Rejoinder.

"Let us," he declared, "join in the chorus of sympathy for the manufacturers. Let us take the city when everything was free from guile. There were twelve firms, every one of whom and in that year they paid in rates imposed by their friends £29,487. They paid it with joyous glee and handed it over with acclamation. This year these same firms paid only £16,602."

There were two ways of paying bills, out of revenue and by "sabbling," but "sabbles" had to be repaid. By coincidence, he would not say by conspiracy, when the Labour Party came into power in the Council the Government stopped the "sabbling" and asked for the money previously borrowed to be repaid. They had had to pay in interest and redemption £100,000.

They might present a different picture if they closed down schools and borrowed money, but they believed that the rate they proposed to impose was the minimum required to carry on the

city in the straightest possible way, and to carry on the essential services.

Councillor W. J. Hunter (Progressives) asserted that the real issue had been closed, and that figures which he had no calculation in saying most of the members of the Council, like himself, had failed to grasp.

Attacking the Social Services.

When the big industries suffered, all other trades suffered. They were faced with a decline in values, and the tradespeople in the city were suffering largely because of the increased assessment. Every able-bodied man who was employed was shouldering the burden of one or two unemployed.

The Council, he asserted, was trying to do too much. It was trying to make people happy without trying to make the city prosperous. He believed they were spending far too much on social services, and if there was any department which was being severely criticised in regard to expenditure, it was the Education Department.

Alderman Albert Smith (Labour) stated a great deal of amusement in his profession of complete confidence for the "experts." "The more I see experts," he said, "the more I regret I have for my career."

Putting Them Right.

Alderman Watkins in "correcting one or two statements," told of the correspondence which he was holding with Sir Kenyon Vaughan Morgan, of the Ratepayers' Association, whom he alleged had misrepresented the true state of affairs in Sheffield.

The trouble to-day was that labour could produce in three months the necessities of a year, he said.

It is all very well for those people who wish to limit social services, but would they limit the education of their own children? He did not blame them for doing their best in education, housing, and health, but he objected to them saying that the rest of the community must be satisfied with something or nothing. "If I could enter houses in my pocket and work in another," he said, "I could satisfy three-quarters of the demands made upon me."

Even Councillor Arthur Neal agreed with Alderman Watkins that the city was far from being insolvent, for there was a surplus of £9,465,343 assets over liabilities. This was extremely important for such a city which might at any time wish to make a loan.

While he did not think the services as a whole were extravagant, he thought some of the items of expenditure required revision, and that the local ratepayer might be relieved by increasing the burden on imperial taxation.

Alderman Ernest Wilson (Progressives) brought the debate to a close by advocating the rationing of committees.

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WILL PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HELP?

GRAVITY OF HOUSING SITUATION.

An appeal for private building contractors to erect houses to be rented was made by Alderman C. W. Gasegoin (Labour) when introducing the report on housing.

Since 1910 the number of houses erected in Sheffield had failed to keep abreast of the demands, he said. From 1896 to 1910, he said, there were on an average 1,902 houses erected each year. From 1910 to 1929 there was a serious shortage and the average was only 400 houses a year, and from 1920 to March, 1930, the average number to be erected each year had fallen to 1,492.

The present demand for houses in the area of 1896 to 1910 is no proper average, there was a total deficiency of 27,000 houses, and it would therefore be reasonable why demands for houses in the city was still so great.

It was significant that in no one year had there been sufficient houses for all the people who had been married. They had in fact only been producing about 50 per cent. of the necessary houses.

"Held Up" By Contractors.

The incalculable factor was the private contractor upon whom the Council had to depend. The Direct Labour Department had only erected 200 to 300 houses, and so if local contractors could not be obtained to erect the houses they would have to go outside the city, or greatly develop the Direct Labour Department. At all events they could not be held up as had happened in the past by the contractors not providing the houses in the specified time.

The expenditure on housing was only equal to a 3½d. rate, and if the whole programme went through it would only mean an addition of a 1d. rate. At the present time there were 8,000 people on the list for corporation houses.

Councillor G. H. Froggatt (Progressives) asked to be informed of the income limit for a corporation house, as he contended that many of the 8,000 people would never get corporation houses as their incomes were not sufficiently large.

Alderman Gasegoin replied that he could not make public the figure, but it was not an extravagant one.

Alderman J. C. Graves (Independents) suggested that they were not getting the type of tenants for whom the houses should be erected, while Councillor Froggatt alleged that they were building houses, not for the poor people, but for people who had money enough to build for themselves.

A lot of slum property in his ward was about to be demolished, yet 65 per cent. of the dwellers in that property were not earning enough to become tenants of corporation houses.

Councillor F. J. M. Turner (Progressives) asserted that private contractors would provide the houses necessary if they could afford to do so. The position was, however, he alleged, that no private contractor could afford to build houses to let. It was known that the corporation houses were built at a loss, then how could they ask private contractors to build?

He was surprised, too, that only 200 houses had been built by the Direct Labour Department in the two years of its existence.

Alderman E. C. Rowntown said it was a refreshing change to find Councillor Turner in favour of housing, for in his last year he was saying that as an economy they ought to cease building houses. (Laughter.) He was glad also to hear him saying that they ought to extend the building by the Direct Labour Department, which was already committed to do £250,000 worth of work. He had not heard Councillor Turner advocating that the Department should build 2,000 houses.

As to Councillor Froggatt's comments with regard to people in the ward not being able to foot the bill under the new management things would be better. The Government grant of £2 5s. per person disposed should enable them to build houses to let at 5s. a week, plus rates.

Councillor Froggatt (Progressives):

You are picking the best tenants. Alderman Rowntown said there could be no picking and choosing in supply-denned areas, because they had no houses those so displaced. Under the old arrangements they were only in the position of having to replace the same number of houses, but under the new arrangement they could provide a house for each displaced family. Under the old arrangement when they had, as sometimes occurred, three families in one house, they had only to replace the one house, now they could provide for no means confined to what was known as slum areas.

He knew of a case in which a seven-roomed house in Oxford-street was occupied by six families, each using the kitchen communally. He did not want it to go out that there was to be no housing relief for the people in the slum areas.

Alderman Gasegoin said that though the scale of means which governed the letting of corporation houses was not extravagant, and they could improve that by going to the Manor Estate, where poor people were living. Members seemed to be losing sight of the minute which said that they were going to submit experiments in housing.

As to private builders there were only about five offering tenders. Sometimes contractors dropped out because of the bankruptcy. There were builders in the city who could, if they would, help them with their schemes. If the builders would not do so they must not grumble if the Council went elsewhere with the contracts, nor if the work done by the Direct Labour Department was extended. If builders came forward to help, they (the committee) would not hit them with a stick, but would say: "Come and help us, and God bless you." (Laughter.)

The minutes were then passed.

Father's Instructions.

Father: "Why were you kept in school?"
 Son: "I didn't know where the Anzac was."
 Father: "Well, in future, just remember where you put things."

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By COUNCILLOR J. W. HOLLAND (Chairman, Baths Committee).

For the first time since 1924 there has been an attendance at our Sheffield baths numbering over 1,000,000 during the year ending March 31st, 1930. This is exclusive of the open-air bathing. Mother Grundy has now been deliberately killed, and mixed bathing has met with great success at Glossop-road and Hillsborough baths, so much so that we have extended the facility to Heeley Baths for Thursday afternoons. It is interesting to note that as a result of this policy the numbers increased from 240 to 410 the second week, the receipts going up from £3 to nearly £8. Indeed, the committee have been so encouraged in the enlargement of facilities in this way that we are now arranging to introduce mixed bathing wherever and whenever possible. During the coming winter, Heeley, Hillsborough, and Glossop-road Baths will continue with their mixed bathing. Park baths will soon follow suit.

Another splendid innovation is the granting of facilities to unemployed persons at the slipper baths during certain hours of the day, when they may have the use of a bath for the charge of one penny. The bathers bring their own towels and soap, of course. The numbers who have taken advantage of this since the commencement are as follows: July, 38; August, 85; September, 117. Requests have been made to extend this facility to old-age pensioners. The committee will give the matter consideration at a very early date. I may say that as a general

policy the committee are prepared to make real progress to ensure that every chance is given to make the fullest possible use of the baths for every citizen who likes to avail himself of the facilities.

Washhouses.

Before Christmas we shall have two public washhouses in full use; one at Shirebrook, and the other at Upperthorpe. I am sure the women in both areas will welcome this scheme, which at a very small cost the difficulties of "wash day" will be removed from their homes. There will be a room to leave coats, &c., with separate lockers for each person, another room for prams, and children will be able to play to their hearts' content in a crèche provided. In the washing room one can choose either to hand wash or try the use of a machine wash. Hydro-extraction will be provided. Each will have her own drying horse, upon which in twenty minutes the clothes will be dry. Mangle and ironing room can also be booked. Twenty-four washers can be at work at once, and with a little organisation a large number can be accommodated each week. I hope the womenfolk will take the opportunity that the committee will give them to pay a visit and examine all these facilities for themselves. The popularity of these washhouses in other cities encourages us to believe that they will be appreciated in Sheffield.

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