



"PROTECTION" VERSUS WAGES.

By JAMES H. HUDSON (Private Parliamentary Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer).

Protectionists say that "the only means whereby a general reduction of wages in the immediate future can be avoided is the institution of a General Tariff system on foreign manufactured goods."—Tory Resolution, moved in the House of Commons by the Hon. Henry Mond, M.P., November 12th, 1930.

REAL WAGES.

Co-operators know that the real level of wages is decided by the goods and

which I have forecast." What clearer statement of the ultimate Tory aim is needed? Take out of prices what you haven't take out of wages.

How does this country stand in relation to the nations of Europe in this matter of wage and price levels?

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The following table will show. The tariff index was calculated by the economic section of the League of Nations. It is the average of the percentages which the duties imposed in 1925 added to the prices of commodities. The real wage index is calculated by the I.L.O.:

	Tariff Index, 1925 = 100	Real Wage Index, July, 1930.
Spain	42	42
Poland	21	61
Yugoslavia	20	45
Czechoslovakia	19	74
Italy	16	39
Germany	13	73
Austria	12	48
France	12	58
Sweden	11	109
Denmark	6	113
Great Britain	5	100
Netherlands	4	82

The Czech, French, Danish, and Swedish real wages are too high in the above, as they are calculated on actual earnings. Subject to this correction, co-operators can draw the following firm conclusions from conditions in European countries:—

Where tariffs are highest, wages and purchasing power are lowest. Where tariffs are lowest, wages and purchasing power are highest.

WAGE REDUCTIONS.

Protectionists claim that the higher wages paid in America and in Australia are the effect of the heavy tariffs in those countries.

It is a striking commentary on this claim that tariffs in these countries, already the highest in the world, have undergone a sharp rise in the last two years. If the Protectionist claim were valid this ought to have provided an increased safeguard for wage levels.

On the contrary, both in America and Australia the last two years have witnessed, in addition to great unemploy-

ment, a very determined effort to reduce wages.

WAGES IN U.S.A.

The United States has for many years enjoyed higher wage levels than any other country in the world. But Protection is not the only concomitant of high wages in the United States. Both greater industrial intelligence and the economic advantages upon which to exercise it have enabled that country to do what we have not done.

The States are twenty-five times the size of Britain. The population there is only three times ours. They have within their borders nearly all the food and raw material they require.

Added to these advantages *on par* cost of the total trade of the United States is in the home market. (See "The Economist," April 13th, 1929.) Thus with regard to 90 per cent. of its trade the States enjoy the advantages of Free Trade rather than of tariffs.

This later-State system of Free Trade is so well established that no one would lend an ear to any claim for a New England tariff to protect the higher-paid cotton workers against the lower-paid negro labour of the Southern States. If there were anything in the tariff case in support of high wages, the States would long ago have divided into various tariff zones.

Higher wages in the United States can therefore be claimed to be the concomitant of the antithesis of Protection.

AUSTRALIAN EXAMPLE.

Does the higher wage level of Australia provide any better argument for the Protectionists?

Australia is a new country. She needs only for her sparse population the utilization of her more fertile land. She ought therefore, under the operation of the Law of Diminishing Returns, to enjoy an altogether greater rate of production for each unit of labour expended than the more crowded countries like Britain. Her ability to pay wages ought to be greater.

Instead of this, Sir Otto Niemeyer and the British bankers are refusing to recommend further financial accommodation to Australia unless wages are materially reduced.

So far back as 1926, the annual report of the official Tariff Board of Australia re-examined the Commonwealth Government "as to the danger of the tariff being used to bolster up an ever-increasing cost of production irrespective of any consideration being given to the ever-widening gaps between the standards maintained in the Commonwealth and in the Continent of Europe."

The 1927 annual report of the Tariff Board re-examined this question, and foresaw "nothing but disaster ahead." The report remarked on "the use made by manufacturers of profits arising out of Protection which it said in such circumstances was nothing better than a convenient shelter for obsolete plants and methods."

Thus Australia, prouising more prosperity to its workers than most lands, has built on "obsolete plants and methods," and is at this moment driven to choose between a serious loss in the wages of its workers or national bankruptcy.

Neither the old nor the New World provides any case for the establishment of high wages by the help of tariffs.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE PARTY—EASTER ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The National Co-operative Party is holding its annual conference at the Central Hall, Blackpool, during Easter, when, in addition to the annual report and the resolutions from various sections of the movement, the revised programme of policy will be discussed.

The report will show increased affiliations to the party. The party now has over 3,000,000 affiliated members, who represent more than half of the co-operative membership in Great Britain.

A public demonstration will be held on Easter Saturday, April 4th, in the Central Hall, Blackpool, when Mr. Alfred James, M.P. (national president), will take the chair. Speakers: Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty), Mr. Fred Longden, M.P., and Mrs. E. M. Christie (Co-operative Party organizer).



Mr. J. H. HUDSON, M.P.

who will speak at the Orlerton Memorial Hall, and the Longley Council School, on Friday, February 13th.

services the wages will buy. Mr. Mond was forced to admit this when he said that the cost of living index had fallen last year from 100 to 89, and real wages to 89.25. Thus real wages had risen to 120.4. Mr. Mond said this process would continue

"unless something happened to stop it." The real aim, therefore, of the tariffists is not to avoid wage reductions (as stated in the Tory resolution), but to secure these reductions.

Mr. Mond said: "If we bring in a general tariff we will arrest the downward movement of domestic prices and make unnecessary the wage reductions

THE Rt. Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY, and

Mr. J. H. HUDSON, M.P.

(Private Parliamentary Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer)

Will Address Meetings on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th,

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section of the Co-operative Party held a successful meeting in the quiet-room, Cemetery-road, on January 12th. Councillor (Mrs.) Fletcher gave an interesting address on "City Council Work." New members were enrolled. Officers for 1931—

President: Mr. E. Gilliam.
Vice-President: Mr. Mosforth.
Secretary: Mr. G. H. Green, 27, Slate-street.

The next monthly meeting fixed for Monday, February 2nd, will have to be postponed as the date clashes with the annual tea and social arranged by the women's section.

The Women's Section have also arranged a detailed programme up to April. Councillors (Mrs.) Birch, (Mrs.) Fletcher, J. A. Lounden, and T. Garrett, Miss Vinay, Miss A. Harford, and Mrs. J. Burton are to address the meetings, which are held in the Mount Tabernacle U.M.C. Vestry, Wellington-street, every Thursday, at 3 p.m.—Secretary: Mrs. J. Gilliam, 99, Mitchell-street.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The annual tea, social, and dance of the party, held at the Hillsborough Institute on January 8th, was a great success; over 200 people sat down to tea, and in the evening there was an extra large attendance to the social and dance. Mr. Wallis acted as M.C. for the dancing. Concert items and music for dancing were provided by Mr. Norman Cooper's concert party and orchestra.

The members' children's treat, which took the form of a tea and social, held in the large institute, on January 9th, was a very happy event. About 200 children were entertained, and took part in games and dancing. Each received a present from Santa Claus (Mr. E. Winterton), a packet of C.W.S. sweets, and an orange.

The Women's Section held their annual meeting for the election of officers on January 12th. There was a large attendance of members, voting took place by ballot. Mrs. M. Brooke was re-elected as president, and Mrs. R. Wood, 23, Hillsborough Place, as secretary. Mrs. Ballard was elected as vice-president, and Mrs. L. Hodkin assistant-secretary.

The annual meeting of the Hillsborough Co-operative Party was held on January 13th, and—on account of the large amount of business to be done—acted—adjourned until the 22nd. Interesting and encouraging reports were given by the divisional secretary, the financial secretary, representative from the Central Executive, and by the representative on the National Executive. The secretary's report showed a successful year of work, and he anticipated still further progress in 1931. Financial Secretary's report showed a substantial profit on the year's working, a good balance in hand, and an increased contribution in membership fees. The following were elected the officers for 1931—

Secretary: Mr. F. L. Dunn, 85, Hallowsome Road, Wisewood Estate.

President: Mr. L. Taylor.
Vice-President: Mr. F. C. Mead.
Assistant-Secretary: Mr. W. H. S. Marsden.

Treasurer: Mr. H. Scobieck.
At this meeting Mr. Ballard outlined the Co-operative Party's proposals for dealing with the present unemployment problem.

NEEPSAND.

The Neepsand Ward Committee held their annual meeting on January 21st. Alderman Dinnick gave a review of the Co-operative members' work on the Sheffield City Council. Officers, poll captains, and committee were appointed vice-president, Mr. J. H. Allen; secretary, Mr. L. Baines; and Harvest-lane; members' children's treat was held in the Neepsand Institute on January 21st.

The Women's Section report a successful session. The annual tea and

social was held in the St. Michael's Institute on December 29th. Officers for 1931—

President: Mrs. Watson.
Vice-President: Mrs. Ward.
Secretary: Mrs. Institute, 238, York-lane-road, Parkwood Springs.
Assistant-Secretary: Mrs. Spring.
Treasurer: Mrs. Sennance.

BRIGHTSIDE.

The annual meeting of the Brighton Divisional Co-operative Party was held in the Shiregreen Institute, on December 20th, under the presidency of Mr. H. Wilkinson. There was a very good attendance of members. The secretary gave an interesting report on the year's work. Meetings have been held in various parts of the division, and the financial report showed a substantial balance in hand. The president gave a report of the North-Eastern Section. Interesting discussions followed. The election of officers, committee, and representatives, resulted in the following—

Divisional Secretary: Mr. W. A. Walshaw, 388, Windmill-lane, Shiregreen.

President: Mr. H. Wilkinson.
Ward Representatives—

Brightside: Mrs. Shearman.
Mr. Lopez, and Mr. J. Holland.
Burgreave: Mrs. Yelland.
Mrs. Pease, and Mrs. Burpen.
Firth Park: Mrs. Herd, Mrs. Walton, and Mr. Bennett.

LONGLEY AND NORWOOD.

The Longley and Norwood Joint Section of the Co-operative Party report a successful session of work and a rapidly-increasing membership. Meetings are held in the Co-operative Institute (over the branch store) Southey-avenue, every Monday, at 7.30 p.m. Young people between the ages of sixteen and thirty cordially welcome. Full information can be obtained from the Party office, 17, Bank-street.

CO-OPERATIVE RAMBLERS.

The Sheffield Co-operative Ramblers membership card and syllabus for 1931 is now to hand. Rammers have been fixed up for every week in the year. Both long-distance rammers and those catered for. Membership, including syllabus and badge, 2s. Full information can be obtained from the Party office, 17, Bank-street, from the assistant secretary, Mr. R. Shillito, 235, Park-street, Fitzmoor, or any of the committee members as follows—

Mr. J. H. Shearman, 104, Hatfield House-lane, Shiregreen.
Mr. and Mrs. Somerville, 44, Fritchley-road, Wadley, Bripnigh.
Mr. E. Byne, 23, Thurncliffe-road, Darnall.
Mr. Dobson, 5, Tramway-terminus, Carbrook.
Mr. Evaris, 19, Oaks Green, Attercliffe.
Mr. Bagshaw, 22, Barretta-street.
Mr. Marshall, 5, Railway Cottage, Attercliffe.
Mr. and Mrs. Wood, 13, Hillsborough-place, Hillsborough.
Mr. Pinchbeck, 97, Fautel-road, Mount Estate.

The Rammers have arranged their socials, the first was held at Shiregreen on January 24th. The others will be held on Monday, February 26th, at Attercliffe Co-operative Institute, Attercliffe, on March 5th, at Thursday, at Hillsborough Co-operative Institute, Middlewood-road, and on March 26th, at the Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank-street.

"THE MEMORIAL OF PRODUCTION" by the Right Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P. (Chairman of the Executive) Part of a booklet containing verbatim reports of speeches by the Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden above, can be obtained (price 2d.) at the Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank-street.

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"MOUNTAINS OUT OF MOLEHILLS."
LABOUR ALDERMAN DESCRIBES MISCHIEVOUS OPPOSITION.

"COUNCILLOR NEAL is trying to make a mountain out of a molehill," declared Alderman Fred Marshall, M.P., at the meeting of the Sheffield City Council on Wednesday, January 7th. The sentence adequately describes the whole attitude of the Progressive Party and its "Independent" followers at this meeting. The whole attitude is one of a complete lack of sensation either, and the net result was a definite setback for the Opposition.

The first attack concerned the traffic control scheme in Town Hall-square. Alderman A. J. Blanchard, the leader of the Progressives, who moved an amendment to refer back for further consideration a recommendation by the Town Works Committee involving the continuance, with certain additions, of the traffic scheme.

The Alderman complained that the Council was being asked to perpetuate an experimental scheme, although the report of the Chief Constable on the working of the scheme had not been made public.

He said Town Hall-square had become a jolt in the city, and declared that the Council was not doing the job as effectively, than the traffic police. He suggested that much of the difficulty could be got over by having "moving traffic" in the centre of the road, which would mean that passengers could move cars anywhere in the centre of the city, such as in the case of Handsworth to Nether Edge cars anywhere between Commercial-street and Walsgate.

With regard to the proposed stop in Norfolk-street, he could not see why people should not be allowed to board the bus well as dismount. Councillor L. Milner seconded.

No Cars in Fargate.

Councillor Harry Morris, one of the rising speakers on the Labour benches, said that Alderman Blanchard, who was his friend and had announced their intentions in the Press beforehand, but the alderman had not put forward one reasonable suggestion for altering the scheme. Mr. Morris suggested that the Fargate should have inspired the opposition, and added that he would like to see the trams taken out of Fargate altogether. Trams ran on fixed lines, the cars could not get out of the way of the road traffic, and they could not draw in to the pavement to pick up passengers. In Dublin, Leeds, and Bradford cars did not run in the highest-travelled streets.

Alderman J. G. Graves said the question of fairs and moving termini, alluded to by Alderman Blanchard, had nothing to do with the matter, and asserted firmly that the removal of the Queen Victoria monument was a melancholy blunder.

Alderman C. W. Dearley (Labour) hoped that the Council would continue with the traffic experiments, and thought that as a result of the control system in the Square, people were already making an increased use of other streets, such as Pond-street. He considered the problem in Town-square was simple compared with other parts of the city. There would have to be more arterial roads, he added.

Alderman P. Thraves (chairman of the Watch Committee) observed that no alternative scheme had been submitted. He could only come to the conclusion that those who spoke of the Queen Victoria monument, doing the work of three policemen had read every day the "Scourious Topics" columns in the "Sheffield Telegraph" (and laughed), the writer of which had assiduously and persistently done all that he could, and used every possible adjective he could find to try and pour ridicule on the scheme.

'The Pedestrians' Case.

Alderman Thraves pointed out that Alderman Blanchard had not even referred to the pedestrians, but it was the pedestrians with which the (Alderman Thraves) was chiefly concerned. The

careful motorist was an admirable person, but there were reckless motorists, and he could only hope they would cancel each other out. (Laughter).

The Council had provided redress so that pedestrians could cross the square in the opposite direction, and it was difficult comparative safety. He found it difficult to add to the arguments of the speaker, he added, to take his arguments of the opposition seriously on this topic.

Councillor W. Bennett (W.), one of the "Die-Hards" of the Progressive Party, also pleaded for the return of the "Queen Victoria" to the Alderman Dr. Froggatt supported Alderman Blanchard.

Councillor T. Garnett (Labour) chastised Alderman Blanchard for the nature of the opposition put forward. Whatsoever was proposed, the Alderman, as he said, to oppose it. "I consider the amendment can only have the effect of holding up the scheme," went on Councillor Garnett, and the only real complaint against it is that the passengers have no shelter in the inclement weather. That matter, he added, was being put right.

The basis of the opposition was the political, Councillor Garnett showed. Had the alderman brought forward earlier or in committee any serious recommendation for dealing with the problem, it would have been fully considered.

Councillor Garnett thought from the nature of Alderman Blanchard's proposals, that he had been reading the letters of a humorous writer in the "Sheffield Mail," but had omitted to read the editor's caution that the letters were not meant to be taken seriously. (Laughter).

On a vote being taken the amendment was defeated by fifty-one votes to thirty-four.

Housing Workers at Totley Rise: The Failure of Private Enterprise.

The next attack was an attempt to prevent the workers enjoying the amenities of Totley Rise. Councillor Dr. Froggatt moved that the proposal to buy a housing estate at Totley Rise be referred back, and in a complex speech, tried to persuade the Council to make part of the Longshaw Estate suitable for building, and then lay out people willing to build their own houses.

This remarkable proposal earned Dr. Froggatt a severe verbal drubbing from Alderman F. Marshall, M.P., who regarded it as an attempt to set up a middle-class colony at Longshaw. It was not the function of the City Council, he said, to cater for the middle classes, but for the working classes.

Private enterprise in regard to building of houses had absolutely broken down, for the simple reason that if private enterprise could not build at a profit, it could not be done.

In Attfieldcote the people were living in houses seventy to the acre. He suggested that Dr. Froggatt should go and tell them about his scheme, and see what they lay to it.

House-building in this country, he declared, could not be allowed to depend upon a few people making a profit. Were they going to hand over the working classes, so far as housing was concerned, body and soul, to private enterprise?

Alderman A. Barton (Co-op.) pointed out that Dr. Froggatt's suggestion had nothing to do with the Totley Rise proposal. They were quite willing to consider the Longshaw suggestion on its merits, without having to hold up the Totley scheme.

Alderman Gascoigne's Appeal.

Alderman H. K. Stephenson said the distance from the railway station was a fatal flaw in Dr. Froggatt's suggestion, and Alderman C. W. Dearley (Labour) appealed to the Opposition to assist in the colossal task of meeting the needs of the people as regards housing, instead of making useless criticisms. He pointed

out that the cost of transporting the workers from and to Totley Rise would only work out in a week more than if they were living on one of the Corporation estates within the city borders.

Referring to the argument that people would not live so far from their work, he observed that there had already been a thousand applications for the 250 houses on the Greenhill-estate. He strongly denied that preferential treatment had been shown to any Corporation tenants, and challenged the Oppositor to give any instance.

They hoped next year, Alderman Gascoigne added, to provide sufficient sums of money to erect 4,000 houses each year, in addition to the 500 houses provided for slum clearance, which near 5,000 houses in the next two years. That meant they would need a considerable amount of land, and it was obvious that they would have to get outside the city borders to meet their requirements.

Alderman T. H. Watkins (Co-op.) (chairman of the Finance Committee) asked them to concentrate on the financial aspect of the question, and that they should think that when a house was rented at 9s. 6d. per week, 6s. 6d. of that sum went to pay interest and sinking fund?

Alderman Blanchard, Councillor J. S. Barnes and the Lord Mayor (Prof. G. S. Arves) supported the amendment, but it was heavily defeated.

Criticism Answered: Progressive Attacks Attack Falls Flat.

The contracts for the new library and art gallery gave the Progressives and their "Independent" followers another opportunity of attacking the committee responsible for the decision. Councillor H. Charlesworth (Liberal) criticised the committee for giving the contract for Portland stone facings to Messrs. J. Turner and Sons, of Kiveton Park, instead of to a Sheffield firm, in which he was supported by Alderman Wardley.

Alderman A. Barton (chairman of the committee) explained that the Kiveton had been the better tender for the utilities, and that the difference between the higher tender of the Kiveton Park firm and the lower Sheffield tender would be fully compensated for by the greater rapidity with which Messrs. Turner could complete the work. He emphasised that the decision of the committee would not result in a single Sheffield stonemason being unemployed by the consequence, and that the interest of the Sheffield workers had been fully safeguarded.

Councillor Arthur Neal's attack was more subtle, but it also failed. He alleged that an expert advice had been sought, had been appointed without the knowledge of the Council, and tried to show that the committee had done something without the Council having an opportunity of discussing it.

It was answered by several councillors. Alderman Barton showed that the expense on the engineer's fees of £500 had been approved by the committee and duly approved. The Ministry of Health, as a matter of fact, laid it down that for work of this kind a consultant engineer should be employed.

Item Sanctioned.

Alderman Watkins pointed out that the item was included in the figures for the steel contract which had been sanctioned by the Council, and denounced the wrath of the Opposition by declaring that the omission of an item of this kind from the minutes was nothing out of the ordinary. Alderman Gascoigne added to the discomfiture of the Opposition by showing that it had been the practice to omit certain items from the minutes long before Labour came into power.

Alderman Fred Marshall, M.P., said that Mr. Neal had tried to make a mountain out of a molehill. The committee was asked by the Ministry of Health to employ an expert of this character. If there was anything wrong at all it was simply a technical error in that the actual name had not come before the Council. The cost of £500 relating to the matter was included in the contract passed by the Council two months before.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The diagram as shown on this page is worth cutting out and saving. Of course, it is only possible to give just a glimpse of the larger aspect of organisation in the chart, and it is high time that something more should be taught in our schools. Perhaps, when the school age is raised to fifteen, Citizenship will be a subject dealt with in the last year of school life.

Meanwhile, there is an increasing interest in local government. Those who wish to pursue the matter fully seriously, or to have a handy book of reference, cannot do better than buy—

"The Local Government of the United Kingdom."

by J. J. Clarke (Pittman's). It is quite up-to-date, and well worth the price of 12s. 6d. Lots of our young people would be all the better for a careful reading of this work. We must make sure that the general average of capacity in our city councillors is raised (irrespective of party), and if we can make all building committees go through a course on the organisation of Council work; its functions, its powers, and limitations, so much the better.

In any case, a party like our own that means business, will have to equip the people it intends to use. Ambitious people must also be competent people.

Shareholders All!

Wealthy businessmen sometimes suggest in the newspapers that we are all capitalists now! That is not true in any real sense, but we are certainly all shareholders. We are shareholders in tramway and water systems, in markets and parks and cemeteries, in a factory where electricity is made, in a sewage system—and several other things. We ask the average Sheffielder with a municipal vote any one of the following questions, and he will not know what to answer. Worse still, far worse, he won't know where to look for an answer.

Questions for Voters.

- (1) What are the duties of a J.P., apart from adjudicating on cases in court?
(2) How many people must live within a borough before it can manage its own educational affairs?
(3) What is a non-providised school?
(4) How often must a Sheffield City Council meeting be held?

It is quite likely that both Mr. Percival Sharp and Mr. Current Topics would fail with the rest of us in an examination of this sort, if the answers had to be written without reference to books. But they know where to look for the answers, and a great part of efficiency in knowing where to find information. This book is an ideal one for the purpose: simply written, but packed with information; well arranged and indexed, and on the whole the best text-book on local government available.

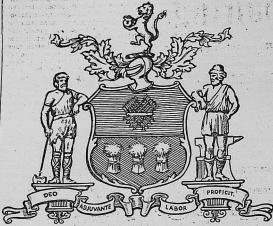
Readers of this paper will be interested to know that Mr. Clarke in his preface acknowledges his indebtedness to his "friends, Professor H. J. Laski, Dr. H. B. Lees Smith, and Mr. A. Collins..." and this should be some commendation as to the worth of the book.

Highlights

Do not be under any illusion: you can be quite a decent person and even a decent citizen if you never read this book; but in our movement we have hundreds of young people with political and social enthusiasm, and should expect them as a duty to tackle it with will. More power to their elbows! B.

DONT FORGET It, Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., and Mr. J. Huxton, M.P., at Langley Council School, and Osherton National Hall, Friday, February 16th.

HOW WE ARE GOVERNED.



THE GOVERNMENT OF SHEFFIELD.

As a result of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, Sheffield applied for a Charter of Incorporation, which was granted in 1843, when its first Town Council was elected. This Charter of Incorporation, giving full civil rights to a new town which has become sufficiently important and enterprising, is obtained nowadays on application on Petition to the King, subject to the approval of the Privy Council (consisting of present and ex-Cabinet Ministers, &c., whose names are prefixed by "Rt. Hon.") Sheffield has now—

A Lord Mayor Elected for one year, on November 9th, by councillors and non-setting aldermen. (Acts as chairman at council meetings.)

24 Aldermen Elected for six years, on November 9th, by councillors. Twelve retiring each third year. (Act as returning officers at municipal elections.)

72 Councillors Elected for three years, on November 1st. Twenty-four retiring annually (one in each of the twenty-four wards). By burgesses, i.e., people whose names appear on the Burgess Roll—which includes rat payers, wife, or husbands of rate-payers, and persons rating, i.e., unfranchised rooms.

Elected from aldermen, councillors, and all persons who are qualified to be nominated by election as councillors.

Elected from retiring aldermen, councillors, and all persons who are qualified to be nominated for election as councillors.

Elected from— (1) Among burgesses, or (2) Persons owning property within the borough rated at £10 or more, or (3) Persons who have resided within the borough during the whole twelve months before the election. (There is a twelve months' disqualification for those who have had poor relief—other than surgical and medical.)

It works by COMMITTEES, thus:—

Table showing Committees and number of members, and COUNCIL (which meet to have 12 monthly meetings a year). Committees include: 13-CHC Hall, 14-Blow-Suppell, 15-Social Movement, 21-Lectures, 22-Health, 23-Finance, 24-Expenditure, 25-Library, 26-Workhouse, 27-Magazine, 28-Gallery, 29-Reading, 30-Parliamentary, 31-Porters, 32-Workhouse, 33-Parliamentary, 34-Reading, 35-Workhouse, 36-Parliamentary, 37-Reading, 38-Education, 39-Workhouse.

The committees have sub-committees, sub-committees report their minutes to their general committees named above; and committees report their minutes to the Council as a whole.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

To complete our scheme of study of governmental matters, we have now naturally to deal with national government.

Mr. J. J. Clarke's work, "Outlines of Central Government in England (Primmis, 5s.) covers the ground as well as any ordinary person can well read. More than 200 pages, clearly and clearly printed, well analysed and set out—a piece of amazingly good work.

The writer gets what too many law-book writers fail to obtain—just along with concise information. Here, for example, we have—

"Downing-street, No. 10, Downing-street, Whitehall, is the official residence of the Prime Minister. It was in the year 1731-2, on the occasion of Count Balthazar's death, that Mr. W. Pitt, to Sir Robert Walpole, who by George II. only accept it for his office of First Lord of the Treasury, to which post he had been annexed for ever. This famous house is owned by the State.

Cabinet meetings are, and have been, frequently held there; but it is not been, and is not now, the inviolable rule that they shall be held there. The Cabinet may, in a general way, meet anywhere, and at any time, to suit the convenience of the Prime Minister and his colleagues.

A 200-Year-Old House.

This is an example of a decent sort of house! Sprinkled throughout the pages are patches of history, showing how our national rules and regulations "sprang down from precedent to precedent."

Even now, the Sovereign, "cannot be married by a Roman Catholic. And Heaven alone knows what would happen if, say, the next king but one was a Roman Catholic!

Parliament.

These are cynics who would sneer at saying "a Roman Catholic." "Parliament" is derived from the French "parler" meaning "to speak." They might feel inclined to add remarks about it being 751 named!

We have specially examined the section on Public Finance, and find it to be excellent. There is a little financial history, a description of the various kinds of taxes and expenditure, particulars of financial administration, and of the National Debt. All the Government Departments are dealt with, and these hardly seems to be an essential part of information which is not given.

Ecclesiastical Courts.

"The Church," still retains her credit with some remnants of "an ancient and powerful jurisdiction, though weak men and others are not always aware of it. But that one division of the jurisdiction should be called the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division," although more frequently mentioned in the statute-books—seems a bit of a culture, paralleled by the Parks and the Committee of the Sheffield City Council!

List of Books.

Many students in our movement also ask for guidance on books. There are twenty pages of Bibliography at the end of this work: a list of books on all branches of politics and government, together, the volume is the best really good equipment, and a first-rate guide for further reading for those whose interest is sufficiently keen.



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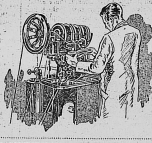
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THE CONSUMERS' VOICE.

THE National Committee of the Co-operative Party has been giving careful consideration to the present political and industrial situation, and will put forward a policy to the National Conference (to be held at Easter) calculated to demarcate the constructive contribution that the movement has to make towards the solution of present-day problems. As is pointed out in the report itself, the movement which gave the Co-operative Party birth, is an organisation of consumers with a viewpoint that hitherto has not been sufficiently represented in either local or national governmental policy.

Co-operation has drawn its membership almost exclusively from the working class, and it is the working-class consumer—representing as he does more than three parts of the nation—who should secure adequate representation on all Government and administrative bodies. Whilst the movement is known most extensively as a trading organisation, it stands for the complete transformation of society, from an individual to a co-operative basis; and in these days when the prophets of capitalism and rationalisation are co-operating for their own advantage, it is essential that an organisation out to transform society should make its voice heard in the councils of the nation. In the words of the report: "The co-operative movement has attained just that balance between theory and practice, by which it is enabled to make decisions calculated to ensure swift progress while avoiding the dangers that follow in the wake of ill-informed judgment."

By its decision to mobilise the political strength of consumers the Co-operative Congress decided to introduce into the affairs of the State and the municipality the co-operative principle of service to the people as a whole.

The co-operative movement now comprises over six million members—partners of a vast business concern, and adherents to a great ethical principle. When, therefore, manifestoes, programmes, and schemes for the curing of our social ills are in the air, it would seem that the time has arrived for the great co-operative movement to make its contribution.

In the programme to be submitted the Co-operative Party faces up boldly to the problem of unemployment. It makes definite proposals with regard to monopolistic businesses of the country. It has regard to the need of industrial reorganisation—reorganisation of power and transport, and industry generally, believing that the failure of capitalism is the opportunity of co-operation. Later we hope to present our policy in these columns in detail, meantime, we appeal to non-co-operators to get inside this great working-class movement for trading purposes. No working man or woman can afford to be outside a movement which protects the highest interests of the consumer, and we appeal to co-operators to give the party their whole-hearted support in its endeavour to extend the sphere of co-operation beyond the bounds of trading into the wider spheres of political and social life generally.

SHEFFIELD REPERTORY THEATRE.

THE Sheffield Repertory Company encouraged by the success of the experiment made last season in opening on Saturday nights, intend to be permanent and have decided to make this a permanent feature in the forthcoming spring season. The theatre opened on Saturday, January 24th, with "The Second Man," a comedy of modern life, by M. Belaïssi, which ran until the following Saturday.

Other plays to be produced are "Mary Rose" by J. M. Barrie, "Twelve Thousand" by J. M. Barrie, "R. Y. R." by Karl Kipke, "The White-Headed Boy," by Lennox Robinson, and "Milk-maids," by Edward Knoblock and Arnold Bennett.

SIR OSWALD MOSLEY EXPLAINS.

POLITICAL dovescocks were battered some little time ago by the views of a man who is Sir Oswald Mosley and a group of Labour M.P.s. The Mosley manifesto proposed drastic alterations in Parliamentary procedure; fiscal, and other (important) restrictions on the big programme of unemployment relief work.

Naturally, co-operators view with suspicion any restrictions on Free Trade which seem likely to impose burdens upon consumers. Without expressing any views for or against the manifesto, it is interesting to note Sir Oswald Mosley's assurance that the interests of the consumer are not forgotten in the proposals which he and his friends have drafted. In an article in the current issue of the "Co-operative Review," he states:

"What do we propose? Tory tariffs? Emphatically, No! Tory tariffs provide a shelter for inefficiency; they leave it in the power of the manufacturer to exploit the consumer, and to reduce the purchasing power of the workmen's wages. We propose the setting up of an Import Control Board for foodstuffs, and Commodity Boards to regulate and control by a variety of devices the importation of manufactured articles from abroad.

But notice this, for it is vital. The Commodity Boards are to be representative not only of the manufacturers of a given product, but of the work-people in the industry, and also of the consumer of the product. From the co-operative point of view this last is vitally important, for the co-operative movement represents the largest organised body of consumers in the country. This board would be authorised to use the methods of prohibition, license, and in certain cases, notably miscellaneous and luxury articles, tariffs, on condition that a fair deal should be given to work-people and consumers alike. What we want a scientific control of imports as a means of lifting up the standard of life rather than the Tory method of throwing a prize to the lowest bidder.

"The great co-operative movement too, must face the fact that laissez-faire in our foreign trade is no longer possible, except at the expense of undermining our population to a low standard of life. If the proposals in the Mosley memorandum ever became the programme of any substantial portion of the House of Commons there is no doubt that the co-operative movement would have to consider its position very seriously, in view of the radical nature of the fiscal and commodity regulation proposals.

SLUM CLEARANCE AND THE NEED FOR PLANNING.

PROBLEMS associated with slum clearance are discussed by the Minister of Health (Mr. Arthur Greenwood) in his contribution to the sixty-third annual report of the Manchester and Salford Trades Council. He points out that when slum dwellings are cleared, the question of rehousing often gives rise to other problems.

We must control the future growth of existing towns, the centres of population, in the public interest. Sporadic development makes for fresh middle and new ugliness. When we are developing in the new areas we must think not merely of building houses, but of providing shops, schools, cinemas, recreation grounds, and public buildings of all kinds. We must think of the provision of transport, light, water, and so forth, and also of the possibilities of normal employment. Broadly speaking, in developing housing, we are generally setting people in other places, with all that that involves."

Mr. Greenwood also stressed the fact that the excess of a Minister of Health in dealing with the waters and questions of health depends in large part on the vigour and foresight of local authorities, and on the active support of an enlightened public opinion which sees in the great cost of slum clearance the hope of increasing happiness and well-being for the people."

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OUR CIRCLE

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DWAYNE Mitchell, General Post Office, London, 21, Lane 318, 1931.

THE POLITICAL LEVY: A LIBERAL VIEW.

SOME prominent Liberals have expressed indignation at the intention of the Government in the Trade Disputes Bill to restore the former method of collecting the political levy, and it is suggested that they are strongly supported among the Liberal rank and file.

In view of this the following comment in the Liberal "Nation and Athenaeum," of January 17th, is particularly interesting—

"Our experience of contracting-in has also destroyed, in the most conclusive way, the legend of terrorism and industrial blackmail by which the advocates of that system sought to justify its introduction. We were told that the men were afraid to sign a form claiming exemption from the levy; that they would be marked men, victimised,

Buy and Read "Reynold's."

deprived of their rights as members of the unions; that possibly they would lose their jobs. All these weapons have been equally available to the union officials under the present system, if they could prevent men from contracting in, who could not then force them to contract in. There is no way out of this dilemma. The fact is that the Act of 1927 has only removed one weapon from the hands of the officials, the victimisation.

"We remain of the opinion that to insist upon the exemption of the individual is an unfair interference with the rights of association, and a rather shabby device for relieving the financial resources of the Labour Party."

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THE LABOUR PARTY AT NETHER EDGE.

The annual general meeting of the Nether Edge Ward Labour Party was held on January 14th. At this well-attended meeting the president reviewed the work during 1931 and in connection with the municipal election, pointed out that although the total of votes polled was disappointing, they had every reason to congratulate the agent, Mr. Dennis, and the members of the party, for the fine work they had done, both before and during the election.

The financial account showed an appreciable balance in hand, and compared well with last year's.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: Mr. F. Fowlstone (president), Mr. W. J. Bessler (secretary), and Mrs. C. Gavanag (treasurer).

Poll captains and assistant captains were also appointed, and a very efficient committee resulted from the elections.

They were unanimously agreed to invite a candidate for the next municipal election and to start on the work of progress immediately.

Secretary's address: 50, Peshyn-road, Hunter's Bar. New members cordially welcomed.

Previous to the annual meeting there was a successful children's party held at the Nether Edge Reform Club. The children had the time of their lives. The committee are indebted to Mrs. Gavanag and her happy band of workers for the organisation of this event. They are to be heartily congratulated on the work they did, sparing no time or trouble to make the children "at home" and happy.

MORE PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS.

It is now possible to begin to see the full effect of the Labour Government's Widows', Orphans', and Old-Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1929.

On January 1st widows, between the ages of fifty-five and sixty, of men of the insurable class who died before January 4th, 1926, when the contributory pension scheme came into force, became entitled to widows' pensions under the Labour Government's Amending Act.

The number of new pensions actually awarded on this date was 60,000, and it is estimated that another 75,000 widows can show a good title to pension from the same date. Many of these have not yet submitted claims.

It will be remembered that the original Contributory Act, under which the scheme was inaugurated, excluded several hundred thousand widows who just failed to qualify for these pensions under the rigid provisions relating to National Health Insurance contributions and the date of death of the husband.

The only defence offered when a great tide of protests arose from excluded

women was that the "sacred contributory principle" must be maintained. The Labour Government fulfilled at the earliest possible opportunity the pledge of the party to abolish this objectionable principle. The first great group of widows to receive those who reached the age of sixty before January 1st, 1932. The sixty before were awarded the pensions on majority before and the number receiving July 1st, 1930, and the number receiving July 1st, 1931, in this group is 218,000. To this persons in this group is 218,000. To this number now be added the number given under relating to widows in the second group.

Another important group is comprised of widows who, from now onwards, will be eligible for pensions when they reach the age of fifty-five.

DELAYS IN UNEMPLOYMENT SCHEMES.

One or two passages in the report of the Unemployment Grants Committee up to August 30th last, recently published by H.M. Stationery Office at threepence, have a bearing on criticisms relating to delays in the examination and commencement of schemes of work.

On the question of delay between the submission of a scheme to the committee and the announcement of a decision the committee state they are satisfied that a careful examination of all schemes is necessary. It should be remembered that many of them are highly-technical in character, and not a few, after submission, have to be substantially revised.

Moreover, in view of the large sums for which the Exchequer is assuming liability, it is essential that the committee should be satisfied that the expenditure is justified.

In this connection the committee desire to make it quite clear that no delay occurs in their consideration of cases after the necessary inquiries are completed.

Reference is next made to delays in commencing work after a scheme is approved for grant. On this point the committee say that in many cases the authority's officers have a good deal of work to do before the scheme can be started. In works of a complicated character, providing employment for a large number of men for a long period, "time must elapse to allow of the completion of working drawings, the drawing up of bills of quantities, the obtaining of tenders and the consideration of those tenders by the appropriate committee of the authority, and finally, by the authority itself. In some instances, periods of months elapse between the date of the committee's approval, and the date when the work is actively in operation."

Amount of Employment Provided. Another point made in the report is that in connection with the various schemes "the indirect contribution to the relief of unemployment is appreciable," as a considerable part of the capital cost of many of the schemes will be expended in a manner to provide employment in factories and workshops.

This fact, the committee state, "provides some answer to the criticism occasionally made that the schemes are of little benefit to the skilled worker and to women workers."

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GREAT CO-OPERATIVE CARNIVAL

Shedden and Ecclesall Children's Festival, Cutlers' Hall, March 9th to 12th.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society is again running a great children's fancy dress carnival, to be held at the Cutlers' Hall, March 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, that is, the evenings of Monday to Thursday, inclusive.

It is confidently expected that this second carnival will be an even greater success than the one held for two nights last April, when some 863 happy children took part in the proceedings. As on the previous occasion, the whole of the suite of rooms at the Cutlers' Hall has been engaged.

Those who are not conversant with the varied and attractive features which this free entertainment offers should look out for the details which will be advertised in the society's shops and in the Press generally. Again there will be a wide range of characters, and competitors will find great help in their choice from those listed in the programme, copies of which are now available. It is anticipated that the event will follow closely last year's, when the characters to be portrayed were divided into seven competitive classes: (1) Historical and political; (2) opera, musical comedy, and pantomime; (3) literary; (4) film stars; (5) popular songs; (6) nursery rhymes and miscellaneities; (7) nations of the world. Other features may also be introduced.

At the time of writing there are over 1,600 entries. The competition is open to all boys and girls from five to sixteen years of age who are children of members of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society. Over 250 prizes will be given. Intending competitors should inquire at the various co-operative branches, or at the Arcade, Ecclesall-road.

The present writer remembers with pleasure the delightful scenes and events of the last occasion. The society is to be heartily congratulated on a repetition of this happy celebration.

THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENT A "MATTER FOR PROFOUND SATISFACTION."

It is not surprising that foreigners are baffled by the paradoxes of English political life. In a leading article in "The Times" of January 19th, the administration of home affairs by the Labour Government is the theme of criticism in which not a single redeeming feature is conceded. There has been a "appalling drift" in the management of home problems, and the legislation of the first session has borne "poisonous fruit" in the mining trouble in South Wales.

Yet in the same article the following comment is made on the outcome of the Round Table Conference:—

"By common consent the Government, as represented by the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor, have presided to the general admiration over the different discussions of the Round Table. It remains a matter for profound satisfaction that the Labour Party should have been in office when the occasion came, and that India should have been saved, as it could never have been saved in other circumstances, from becoming the spoil of party politics in this country."

The absurdity of the suggestion that men who have steered the Indian Conference along a course strewn with difficulties, which many people thought at the outset would make success impossible, should have failed completely in handling home problems is self-evident. Such a combination of statesmanship and utter incompetence is impossible. It would be equally absurd to suggest that any Government is above criticism, but the whole record of the Labour Government up-to-date, whether judged in relation to the election pledges or to the nature of the tasks that have had to be faced, will more than stand comparison with that of any administration in far less difficult times.

The Song of the Tram Conductor.

mine is Jonathan Johnson, and my life is full of cares,
I sit a tram conductor and I gather all my fares;
Now Mister Bentinley waltz me up when all is dark and dead
At 4 a.m. when other folk are all asleep in bed,
If all of us got up at four it wouldn't seem so bad,
No wonder I'm so full of cares and always look so sad.

I climb the steps a thousand times in every working day,
To get the fares from passengers when they don't forget to pay,
I take their silver and get change I give the right amount,
And slip it in their hands so fast they always miss the count.
I handle tons of copper and I always have it right,
And I count a million pennies in my slumbers every night.

I wear a leather satchel and it fits me like a glove,
It would make a chest protector, but my chest's too far above,
So I wear it like a position for lambs on the plain,
And instead of lined flannel, why, of course, it's copper coin.
A satchel and a punch I wear and a uniform of blue,
But I mustn't punch the passengers, though I'd often like to do.

I have to punch the tickets and I have to ring the bell,
The driver hears the tinkle and away we go—to the next stop;
The inspector mounts the tramcar and he has a little ride,
He goes inspecting on the top while I inspect inside!
If he has no complaint to make then when the time is ripe
I get a trifle extra wage and wear an extra stripe.

Now who'd be a car conductor with a lot of cars like these?
With aldermen and councillors and citizens to please;
And then there's the inspectors, and there's Mister Feanley; too,
Of course, it's more than any man can ever hope to do,
I'd love to live to see the time when tram rides will be free,
And the other tram conductors will be pensioned off with me.

V. V. S.

'GRAMMAR FOR GROWN-UPS.'

THROUGH an error in our last issue we omitted to print that the book "Grammar for Grown-ups" is published by Messrs. Allen and Unwin at 25. net. We give the information in response to numerous inquiries.—EDITOR.

DON'T FORGET.

Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., and Mr. J. Hudson, M.P.,
At Longley Council School and Overton Memorial Hall, Friday, February 13th.

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