

# The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR

No. 91.

JULY, 1931.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000 COPIES.

## THE BEAVERBROOK BOOMERANG. THE "DAILY EXPRESS" CAMPAIGN EXPOSED.

We cannot say how many readers of the "Daily Express" are co-operators, but those, if any, who are must have been greatly intrigued to find the Beaverbrook Star suddenly interested in the wages of the co-operative employee and constituting itself the guardian of co-operative morality.

There are millions of capital behind the "Express" newspapers; yet, in spite of that, they do not seem to be able to command the services of anybody who understands the co-operative movement, who knows what the movement is, what the C.W.S. is, or what the law is with regard to co-operation. These papers keep reiterating the statement that "co-operative societies pay no income tax." We are positive they do not know that statement is untrue.

### PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF.

On the question of wages the "Express" might tell its readers why several of its "star" writers have left the "Express" to join the staff of a Socialist paper. It might also explain why it has had nothing to say against wages reductions for railwaymen, dockers, miners, and transport workers. According to the twentieth abstract of Labour Statistics of the United Kingdom, the weekly decreases in wages for all industries covered have been 43.26 per cent. during the last three years; 1928, £72,000; 1929, £28,000; 1930, £46,000. We have seen no "Express" denunciations of these inequitable decreases, although they have frequently been denounced in the Co-operative Press, which also protested against wages in the co-operative societies.

### SQUEEZING THE BOTTOM DOG.

A pertinent point to be mentioned here is that the "Evening Standard," the evening paper of the Beaverbrook family, took steps last year, with associates, to cut down the miserable profits of the retail newspapers by exacting for twenty-six papers the price formerly paid for twenty-seven.

### DARE NOT PUBLISH THE FACTS.

The "Express" published one day last week a letter from Mr. R. A. Palmer, the general secretary of the Co-operative Union, replying to its criticisms; but it did not publish the statement of co-operative wages in the North-Western area, which Mr. Palmer also sent. At no time, during this vicious campaign, has

the "Express" published the wages now being paid in this area.

### COMPARE THESE WAGES.

The societies in the North-West, after the deductions authorized after arbitration will be paying male journeymen 11s. 9d. per week at fourteen years of age up to 40s. per week at twenty; and female journeymen from 10s. 6d. to 35s. 3d. within the same stages. Adult male assistants will go from 53s. 6d. at twenty-one years to 62s. 3d. per week at twenty-three years, while female assistants start at 34s. 9d. at twenty-one years. Male clerks rise from 53s. 6d. at twenty-one to 60s. 6d. at twenty-three, while females begin with 35s. 9d. at twenty-one. Dressmakers and milliners go from 10s. 6d. at fourteen to 34s. 9d. at twenty-one. After these ages merit and position govern wages.

### FACTS.

The Ministry of Labour held an inquiry in 1926 into wages rates and the degree of industrial organisation in the wholesale and retail grocery and provision trades. Its reports disclosed that in Lancashire and the West Riding 46 per cent. of the male workers were getting 10s. or less, per week at fourteen years, and at twenty-three years of age 78 per cent. were getting 60s. or less. Among the female workers, 81 per cent. were getting 50s. or less, at twenty years of age. Since then the tendency has been for wages to fall, and it can be assumed that the general level of private rates will be even lower to-day. Can the "Daily Express" refute this statement or produce figures showing a private trade average wage scale that compares with that quoted above?

### LIVERPOOL EXAMPLE.

The "Express" stated that "every grade of worker—from manager downward to counter-boy—in a privately-owned company controlling multiple stores now receives a higher wage than its comparative grade in a co-operative society store." The word "now" may mean one, or it may mean any; but the "Express" has singularly failed to produce one lot of evidence.

We can produce evidence to the contrary. Liverpool Co-operative Society four years ago took over a local multiple concern operating fifty shops. Out of 179 assistants, 144 had to receive advances in wages to bring them up to

the co-operative standard. Out of forty-two branch managers, forty had to receive advances to bring them up to the co-operative standard. The increases ranged from 6d. per week to 25s. increases. Five had to be advanced 12s. per week; three, 14s.; three, 16s.; one, 21s.; and one, 25s. These facts relate to both branch managers and assistants.

### ANOTHER STUNT.

The "Express" now proposes to organise a campaign among the members of societies to have the power of the management committees transferred to the "Express" offices. Of the result of that enterprise we have no doubt. The members of co-operative societies will still retain the direction of the policy of the societies in their own hands. They are not likely to be directed by newspapers which have been decidedly conspicuous for absurd mistakes in many directions.

The "Express" is actuated by one motive. It represents private enterprise and the political influence which favours private enterprise. It sees the co-operative movement holding its own in a time when business is shockingly bad all round. It urges that in order to maintain wages the movement should save money by its spending on its newspapers, its political offices, and its propaganda. That is the real purpose behind this effort. The "Express" sees the propaganda of the movement—whether directed from the platforms or through the Press or Parliament—changing opinion. There are twelve Co-operative M.P.s in Parliament. There are 600 co-operative members of local authorities; there are 665 "Labour and Co-operative" members of such authorities. That growth is what the "Express" wants to see stopped; and co-operators are not so foolish as to be influenced by its campaign in that direction.

The "Express" circulates mainly amongst people who are not co-operators or "trade unionists." In fact, if there is such a thing as a typical "Express" reader he would be a shop assistant in private enterprise, the class of person who, in the main, is too proud or too timid to learn the value of associated effort. No wonder the "Express" did not publish the scale of wages sent by the general secretary of the Co-operative Union.

The "Express" has never published

the actual wage scale. If they did every shop assistant reader of the "Express" would realise with what humbug he had been fed; and the majority of them would realise that even after the recent adjustment the co-operative employees were more favourably remunerated.

### DISREGARD OF FACTS.

The "Express" never did specialise in facts. Entertainment, some of it unintentional—as, for instance, the Empire Free Trade crusade—was its forte. It has a talent for disregarding facts, a talent which it has employed to the full in its recent attack on the co-operative movement.

### "EXPRESS" INCONSISTENCY.

The "Express" says "Wages must not come down," but does it ever attack any particular body of employers in the way it has attacked the co-operative movement? No, above all things, advertisers must not be alienated. The "Co-operative News" has already pointed out that.

Even the Empire Free Trade crusade has not prevented that, as its force, soliciting the advertisements of American manufacturers. To British readers the "Express" says keep out foreign products, but to the foreigner the "Express" preaches Free Trade and invites him to sell his goods in the British market.

The "Express" pretends now to be solicitous for the workers' standard of living; and yet it advocates Protection. It advocates a tax on food. It advocates an indirect attack to reduce the purchasing power of the workers' wage.

### AN INDICTMENT.

The "Express" has by no means heard the last of its reckless attack; the first number of the "Co-operative Citizen" is devoted entirely to a refutation of the "Express" attack. No newspaper "stunt" was ever so utterly discredited as the "Express" stunt has been discredited by the "Co-operative News," the "Scottish Co-operator," "Reynolds's," and the "Co-operative Citizen," and between them these publications have knocked the bottom out of the capitalist attack on co-operation conducted by the "Express," whose owner has entrusted Lord Rothermere as the mouthpiece of "private enterprise."

BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.

## Grand Procession and Opening of New Branch, SATURDAY, JULY 11TH.

WISEWOOD ESTATE.

1.30 p.m. Procession of Decorated Vehicles, headed by St. Margaret's Brass Band, will leave Broughton-in-Furness, and proceed along Athercliffe Common, Athercliffe-road, Saville-street, Waker, Nursery-street, Mowbray-street, Bedford-street, Infirmary-road, Longsett-road, Middle-house-road, Dykes Hill-road, Fir-lane, Be-the-road, Hallowmoor road, to the

NEW PREMISES TO BE OPENED AT 2.30 P.M. BY COUN. J. GILL.  
RT. HON. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.,

First Lord of the Admiralty, will also speak, followed by

FIELD-DAY AND GALA

Commencing at 3 p.m. in Mr. Birdsmongh's Hall, Ben Lane, Walsley.

CROWNING OF "CIRCLE QUEEN" by Mrs. E. ALEXANDER.

MAYPOLE AND COUNTRY DANCING by "CIRCLE" CHILDREN, CHILDREN'S B. & C. CHOIRS.

Public Dancing: Music by St. Margaret's Brass Band and Goude's Melody Orchestra.

All the Fun of the Fair at Novelty Stalls and Competitions, &c.

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A Clean and Popular Magazine  
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10, Market Street, Sheffield.

## AN IMPERTINENT REMARK.

"PROGRESSIVE" COUNCILLOR'S GIBE AT OUR MOVEMENT.

An ill-timed gibe at the co-operative movement was a feature of the June meeting of the Sheffield City Council. It arose out of the giving out of the tender for furnishing the new City Hall and one "Progressive" councillor, noting that the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society had been given a small contract for the 12,000 chairs to ask what would become of the dividend.

When big contracts are given out to ordinary commercial firms this councillor has never asked what would become of the dividends. He probably knows that in these latter cases, they go into the pockets of the few, whereas in the case of the "S. and E." Society they go into the pockets of the many.

In the matter of the furnishing of the City Hall, Alderman Graves drew attention to the recomputed acceptance of a tender of £8,600 from H. Lazarus and Son Ltd., for chairs. He wanted to know how many chairs they were going to get for that money.

Councillor T. Garnett asked if the firm was a Sheffield firm, if not, had any Sheffield firms tendered?

Councillor F. Turner (Progressive) pointed out that another tender recommended for acceptance was that of £4,554 for a rubber carpet by The Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society. What, he asked, was to become of the dividend of 2s. in the pound.

Alderman Bailey replied that in this impertinent question that the committee concerned had not gone into the question of dividend, and he did not know in what way it would be applied. The Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society had tendered in the same way as the other local firms, and their tender being the lowest it had been accepted.

### The Explanation.

Answering Alderman Graves, he said 3,500 arm chairs were needed for the body of the City Hall, and 400 for the choir seats. These Sheffield firms had tendered, also Messrs. Lazarus, and the figures of the local firms were £8,702, £8,547, and £11,702. He had at first made up his mind to give the contract to the Sheffield firm making the £8,702 tender, as it was only £102 more than the tender from Messrs. Lazarus, but inquiry revealed the fact that this local firm were actually getting the chairs from Messrs. Lazarus.

That meant, added the Alderman and laughter, that if the work had been given to the local firm the work would not have been done in Sheffield, and no benefit would have accrued to the city.

Alderman Graves commented that the price of the chairs seemed high. "It must be a very affluent committee that can afford well over £2 a chair for nearly 4,000," he said.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee to increase the salary of Mr. E. Morgan (the general manager of the Electric Supply Department) gave rise to discussion. The proposed increase was from £1,350 to £1,500 by annual increments of £125.

Councillor P. J. H. Turner asked if the chairman of the committee was satisfied that this was the time for increasing the salaries of permanent officials who were in receipt of £1,350 a year; and Alderman T. Watkins (the chairman) replied that when Mr. Morgan was appointed there was a definite understanding that he should begin at a salary of £250 less than that received by his predecessor. They were now giving him the amount received by his predecessor for carrying out the same duties.

This did not satisfy Councillor Turner, who complained that while the industries of the city were having to cut down the salaries of highly-paid officials, directors were having to go without fees, dividends, &c. It was wrong to engage a corporation official and promise an increment at a fixed time.

Alderman Watkins put the matter in its true perspective when he pointed out the very high figures being paid in the electricity industry. Over 90 per

cent. of the electric supply was in the hands of foreigners, who were paying extraordinary salaries for the best men.

The minutes were then passed.

### Sheffield Firms and Tram Rails.

The inability of Sheffield to supply tram rails also aroused discussion. The Committee was an item giving authority for the acceptance of the offer of the Cargo Fleet Iron Co. Ltd., to supply 200 tons of heavy rails.

The Chairman (Alderman A. J. Bailey) explained that although the committee had asked Sheffield firms to tender, the offer had been received during the last two years. They could not get tram rails in Sheffield, and if this was one of the results of rationalisation it was serious for the city. There were certain other things, he added, which they had purchased regularly in Sheffield, such as filigates, but to-day they could not get a quotation in the city for these things.

Councillor Fred Bland, an industrialist, stated there were no works to-day that would get down to rolling tram rails, having regard to the splendid plant at Middlesbrough; and Alderman C. W. Bendry (Labour) declared that so far as Sheffield was concerned they could say good-bye to being considered the city of steel.

This latter statement was objected to by Councillor Neal who said that Sheffield was making the false steel in the world. Points and crossings were made by Hadfield's, and he believed by Edger Allen's. There were some things, however, which to be produced they must be produced at a point nearest to the material from which they were made.

Alderman Wardley (Labour) hoped for Sheffield's sake that it would be repeated that Sheffield could not make tram rails. If it could be made probable Sheffield could within a very short time begin to make such products. The minutes were passed.

### Corporation and Model "Pubs."

Alderman A. J. Bailey (Labour) moved a resolution asking the Council to erect model public-houses on suitable sites on corporation housing estates. To this there was an amendment imposing the conditions that first there must be a petition bearing the signatures of at least 20 per cent. of the people of the particular estate, and then a poll taken.

The Town Clerk (Mr. E. B. Gibson) read a number of resolutions of protest, including those from the Sheffield Convention of the International Order of Good Templars; the Methodist Union Area Committee; and the Sheffield United Temperance Council of the religious communities and temperance societies of the city, of which the Bishop of Sheffield is president.

Alderman Bailey emphasised that he did not desire to increase the facilities for drinking; his object was to control the provision of such facilities on the facilities under their own control, or were they to allow the erection of rings of houses over which they had no control, or certain type of club over which neither police nor magistrates had any proper supervision?

He was not suggesting, he added, that there should be any wholesale erection of public-houses on the corporation estates; he was concerned only with the principle.

### A Doubtful Expedient.

The amendment was moved by Alderman Gascoigne (Labour, the chairman of the Estates Committee), the chairman of that body, had no great agitation on the part of the public for the facilities advocated by Alderman Bailey. He regarded the provision of public-houses on estates as a doubtful expedient, and suggested that a private owner would strongly hesitate before allowing any portion of an estate to be used for the erection of licensed premises.

Every shilling spent in a public-house would decrease the likelihood of corporation getting its rents. To place public-houses on some corporation estates would be like putting a bomb there in the case of the Manor it would be the scrapping of the social credit scheme.

Alderman T. Watkins (Labour), who was the last speaker, declared that as a corporation they could not afford a policy of deterioration. They had to protect the interests of the young people, and the young people.

Councillor J. Skelton (Labour) was the side of Alderman Bailey, and agreed with the movers of the amendment of trying to usurp the powers of the licensing justices.

### Not Their Job.

Opposition to both resolutions and amendment came from Councillor Arthur Neal, Alderman Graves, and Councillor Arthur Neal. The last named declared that it was not the function of a City Council to conduct the business of a brewery. After a lively active engagement in opposition to brewers and publicans, he felt that these people did their best to control a difficult business.

Councillor H. Morris declared that he would not vote for anything that meant an extra public-house, but there were no premises to be used as clubs.

After a ninety minutes' debate both resolutions and amendment were heavily defeated.

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JULY, 1935.

## LOOK AFTER YOUR VOTE.

A MAN or woman is entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary voter if he or she is twenty-one years of age or over, and has resided in a constituency for a period of three months ending June 1st, 1935.

Residence qualifies, and may be

In your own house.  
In lodgings.

In your parents' house.  
In your employer's house, or  
In any house, tenement, hotel, hostel, &c.

Residence successively in a number of contiguous constituencies for the three months ending June 1st, will entitle a person to qualify.

Dates to Observe.

The Electors' Lists will be published on July 15th.

Persons not registered therein must claim not later than August 7th.

Claims for the Absent Voters' List must be made not later than August 15th.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOTE.

A Man or Woman

of twenty-one years of age or over on June 1st, 1931, may be entitled to be registered as a Local Government Elector if he or she during the three months prior to and including that date

(a) Has occupied a dwelling-house

(b) Has occupied as owner or tenant, land or premises of any kind or value (residence on the premises not required in this case), or

(c) Has occupied a dwelling-house by virtue of office, service, or employment (i.e., as coachman, gardener, caretaker, schoolmaster, &c.), provided the employer should not reside on the premises; or

(d) Has occupied as a lodger a room or rooms let to him or her in an unlicensed state; or

(e) Is either the husband or wife of a person occupying such premises.

Joint Occupiers.

Not more than two joint occupiers may be registered in respect of the same land or premises under the Local Government Franchise.

Successive Occupation.

Providing there has been no break, occupation during a qualifying period may be successive in a number of properties if they are in the same Local Government area.

Poor-Law Relief.

The receipt of Poor-Law Relief, or the non-payment of poor rates, no longer disqualifies an elector.

Absence on Duty.

Residence is not deemed to have been interrupted by compulsory absence of not more than two months during the qualifying period on duty or employment.

Write to, or call on, Mr. A. Ballard, secretary, Sheffield Co-operative Party, 27, Bank-street. All information willing-ly given.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

### GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR DEALING WITH ANOMALIES.

THE Unemployment Insurance Commission recommended, among other things, that benefits should be reduced, and that contributions should be increased, if the qualifications for benefit should be more stringent; that in certain cases a means test should be applied in respect of transitional benefit; and that measures should be taken to bring to an end anomalies which have been described as "legal abuses."

The Government has made it clear that it will not consider any of these proposals, except the question of anomalies, until the Commission has completed its work and presented its final Report.

A new Bill which has been submitted to the House of Commons is limited, therefore, to the following purpose, as defined in an explanatory memorandum attached to the Bill—

"The object of this Bill is to deal with certain anomalies in the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Acts to which attention has been called in the first report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance. The anomalies in question affect four classes of workers, namely—

Workers who receive substantial earnings or similar payments in a period in respect of which benefit is payable.

Seasonal workers.

Persons who normally work not more than two days a week.

Married women who have ceased to be normally employed in insurable employment.

The Bill proposes to deal with these classes of persons by enabling the Minister of Labour, after consulting the Minister of Finance, to make such provisions as he may think fit with an advisory committee constituted

for the purpose and containing representatives of employers and of workers, to make regulations applying special provisions to the classes in question.

The Bill is a short measure of four clauses. The proposed advisory committee is to be set up within six weeks of the passing of the Act. It will consist of a chairman and eight other members, to be appointed by the Minister—three after consultation with the General Council of the Trade Unions Congress, three after consultation with the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations, and one after consultation with the Treasury. Travelling expenses and compensation for loss of remunerative time may be paid to the members of the committee. It is estimated that the cost will not exceed £500 in the first year.

Regulations which the Minister may frame after consultation with the committee shall, in relation to the classes of persons mentioned, "impose such additional conditions and terms with respect to the receipt of benefit, and such restrictions on the period and amount of benefit," and also make such modifications in the provisions relating to the duration of claims, as may appear necessary. A draft of any regulations must be submitted to the advisory committee, which must make a report to the Minister "as soon as may be." Every such report must be laid forthwith before each House of Parliament.

The Bill also contains a clause authorising the Minister to make provision "by way of grant or loan or otherwise, for the purpose of facilitating the removal of workers and their dependents from one place to another."

### THE UNEMPLOYMENT FUND.

BORROWING POWERS FOR AN ADDITIONAL £25,000,000.

ON June 22nd the Government submitted to the House of Commons a finance resolution to increase to £15,000,000 during the deficiency period the borrowing powers of the unemployment fund. The "deficiency period" is that between the passing of the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1921 and the date on which the Treasury certify that the unemployment fund is solvent.

According to a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Labour (Cmd. 3559, H.M. Stationery Office, London, W.C.2, or any bookseller, price one penny), the debt of the fund was £99,400,000 on March 31st, 1931, and the number of persons on the live register was 2,634,574. The debt has since increased to £85,870,000, and on June 8th the number on the live register was 2,607,598. The average weekly rate of increase of the debt since March 31st has been about £1,010,000.

At the present time the weekly expenditure exceeds the income by about the same amount. Therefore, the borrowing powers before the passing of the resolution—limited to £90,000,000—would have been exhausted early in July.

The extension of the borrowing powers asked for in the resolution will provide a further £25,000,000, and assuming that the weekly deficit continues at the recent rate this will carry on the fund until about the end of the year. Any improvement in unemployment would lengthen the period.

The expenditure of the borrowed money relates only to what may be termed the ordinary insurance benefit. The payment of transitional benefit—that is, benefit due to claimants who do not possess the normal qualification of thirty contributions on the last two years—is met entirely by the Exchequer under the Acts of 1920 and 1921.

Under existing legislation, transitional benefit would begin to expire on October 17th next, and would come to an end entirely on October 16th, 1935. The new finance resolution authorises an extension of six months beyond each of these

dates, and gives authority for the cost of the extension, including administration, to be covered by an additional payment from the Exchequer to the unemployment fund.

It is estimated that the additional cost of this benefit in the period now provided for will be about £10,000,000, of which about £5,000,000 will fall in the current financial year.

The estimated cost of transitional benefit to the Exchequer in the present financial year under the existing legislation is \$9,000,000, and the additional £5,000,000 of the new authority will bring this to £14,000,000.

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## DIVIDENDS.

Copies, price 1s. post free, are obtainable from the author, 117, Leeson-street, London, E.1.

The philosophical Mr. Mercer has here strung together loosely the pearls of his wisdom. He is happily quite aware that all movements, however humble in origin, however sincerely conceived, however nobly and sacrificially worked for by their pioneers and martyrs, are in danger. The time comes when self-complexity is likely to overtake them, when criticism and challenge cease. Pharisaism, he recognises, can realise itself inside what we call the co-operative movement. "Co-operation," he says, "was born in a stable and will probably perish in a palace." Like Christianity, it may ultimately produce its deans who will deny it; if, indeed, it has not already done so.

In other words, humbug is the darling sin of humanity. Men frequently humbug themselves, and tries to humbug others—with a considerable degree of success. A clear key wind is cutting, but healthy; and Mr. Mercer is such a breeze, even though at times he may for a moment become a mist, as when he says that "the act of consuming is essentially healthy." Frankly, it isn't; it all depends upon what one's motive is behind the act of consuming. A tinge of the Chestertonian spirit would have saved him from a statement like that. Besides, he is definitely wrong when he says: "Modern co-operation has many law-givers, but no prophets." The rebuke is in his own booklet, which certainly stamps him as a prophet of the movement—and we should hesitate to think he is the only one.

### Competition.

"Co-operators," he says, "who condemn all forms of competition would rob the co-operative movement of its greatest stimulus." If we are right in thinking that he is here giving a qualified approval of competition, we disagree with him to the furthest possible degree. All competition is rivalry; and the way to play games, or to play the greater game of life in all its varied aspects, is to do the best

"INTERIM DIVIDENDS," being notes on Co-operation, by T. W. MIGNON.

one can irrespective of how well others may do. In fact, we shall never play games reasonably until we can obliterate the spirit of mere rivalry. Besides, on any just judgment, "success is naught; endeavour's all!"

### Two-Edged Swords.

Mr. Mercer sometimes wields a motto like a sword with two edges. "Small shareholders make good masters, but bad servants," for example, is not always true. Certainly not often than "small shareholders make bad masters, but good servants." Again, he asserts that "nothing educates like ownership," which seems to suggest that property owners are a well-educated race. It is at least as true to say that nothing corrupts like ownership—and both these aspects should properly be set side by side in any co-operative handbook. Maxims and proverbs usually have this characteristic of being equally true the other way round, and this makes them extremely unsafe expressions. People naturally are inclined to take them quite literally. "Angels rush in where fools fear to tread" is as true as the proverb it parodies.

The last—eighty-third—of his pithy remarks is rather a puzzle. "The distance between Holyoke House and Balloon-street is exactly equal to the distance between Westminster Abbey and the Horse of Lords. A good man can be happy in either place."

### The Sleeping and the Dead.

We surmise that the one place houses the dead, and the other provides accommodation for the sleeping. Certainly a good man—by which he means a visitor, no doubt—could be happy in either; since good men may be happy anywhere. If there is any other and more sinister meaning than this, we have failed to find it.

There are, however, a good many points in the pamphlet worth thinking over, and it is undoubtedly a challenge

to the easy acceptance of co-operation as merely another way of trading. Most people, including co-operators, are stinging with barbed ideas, and here is stinging with barbed ideas, and here is stinging with barbed ideas; it will sit up and take notice on being told that: "When guildsmen advocate equality they dream of mastery!"

However, here is one that is eminently useful: "Co-operation ought not to be an organisation to satisfy the wants of consumers; it should be a crusade to change their tastes." That is like a golden test out of a modern Bible, and is a fitting subject for a good many sermons. Perhaps the *purpose* of consuming, since there are co-operators who do not justify their own consumption of anything at all!

A mixture of wisdom and sarcasm; wit and humour; "clearness" and clear sightedness, is at last semi-officially produced in easily digestible form: "interim dividends," available for members, employees, supporters, directors, and all others in any way connected with the movement. We hope they will draw these "interim dividends" and put them into the bank of their understanding.

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

("The Trade Unions Congress scheme for State Provision for Unemployment Benefit." Price 2d.)

All our readers will be aware of the main suggestions embodied in the report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance. Particulars have already appeared in the Press as to the Government's intentions also.

From the standpoint of organised labour, we have in this pamphlet certain proposals which on the whole are superior to any other immediately practical scheme so far announced. It is too long to be summarised here, but our readers are recommended to obtain a copy—post free—from the Trade Unions Congress General Council, Smith-square, London, S.W.1.

## RUSSIA AGAIN.

The Co-operative Union has recently published a "Report on Visits to Russia" by Members of two Groups of Co-operators—for fourpence per copy. This will appeal to many, and the several records given by members of the groups are very valuable. The publication is well arranged under appropriate heads, and has seventy pages of matter in article-form, each section being written by the writer.

The visit took place in July and August, 1929. Since then, the "Popular Press" has printed a good many half-nising tales of convict labour in connection with timber camps.

As a necessary counterblast to such agitation, the Special Committee of the Timber Trade Federation of the United Kingdom has this year (April 1931) issued a pamphlet. It contains independent evidence in sufficient variety to dispose of the yarns of the "Popular Press." The representative of the Chicago Tribune, for example, writes in a cable to his paper on March 27th, 1931, saying that he finds "convict labour is not employed by the State Timber Trust for export production." Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained from 55, Cannon-street, E.C.4.

After the election experiences awaiting a "Red Letter," people ought to know better than pay any attention whatever to what papers like the "Daily Mail" and the "Daily Express" say about Russia. The "Manchester Guardian," in particular, has been intelligently unbiased in its treatment of Russian affairs, and those who need evidence should direct effectively with their workmates should make a point of getting the pamphlet. It brings together evidence which, on the face of it, is likely to be more trustworthy than the worn enemies of all workers' movements are likely to print.

Get up your case, have it in black and white, and rub it in!

Some of the world's greatest work has been done in pamphlet form, and it would be a great pity that these pamphlets above should be unknown and unread by co-operators.

Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Limited.

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DEPT.

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You can save in another way, too. You can save doctors' bills by insisting on C.W.S. Goods at the Co-operative Stores. All C.W.S. Foods are pure and wholesome. Build up good health by buying C.W.S.

SHOP AT THE CO-OP.  
AND SAY "C.W.S"



**CARPENTER MEMORIAL.**

The second annual memorial service to the late Edward Carpenter will be held at Millthorpe (Holmsfield), Sheffield, on Sunday, July 5th.

Mr. A. Ballard will take the chair, and speakers will include Councillor R. H. Mansfield, Gilbert Betts (author of Carpenter books), Dick Hawkins, F. L. Stevens ("Clarion" editor), Arnold Freeman, M.A., B.Sc., and Mrs. E. Barton, J.P. Singing by mixed co-operative and Clarion choirs.

The committee is not responsible for catering, but tea can be obtained from Mr. Tom Nicholson if ordered before the day of service, otherwise light refreshments will be available.

The ground for the service has been kindly lent by Mr. Knight, and visitors are respectfully requested not to litter the countryside. If wet, the service will be held in Mr. McKay's barn.

A cordial invitation to attend the service is given to our readers. Buses leave Exchange-street from 9.40 a.m. Programme and full particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. S. Harpham, 20, Detsyshire-lane, Sheffield.

**ATTERCLIFFE PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION**

**Labour and Co-operative Councillors**

are in attendance at the under-mentioned places to grant INTERVIEWS to their constituents—

Co-operative Institute, Attercliffe Road (op. Kirkbridge Road), every Wednesday, 6.30 to 7.30.

Labour Hall, Balfour Road, every Thursday, 6.30 to 7.30.

Tinsley Guild Room, Bawtry Road, every Wednesday, 6.30 to 7.30.

Anyone wishing to arrange an interview with

Mr. C. H. WILSON, M.P., please see COUNSELLOR E. S. NICHOLSON, J.P.

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**CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.**

**ATTERCLIFFE.**

The Attercliffe Divisional Council met at the Attercliffe Institute on June 8th, when Councillor Mrs. Tebbitt gave an interesting address on the work of the City Council. Next meeting is at the Attercliffe Institute, Tuesday, July 28th.

**BRIGHTSIDE.**

The Brightside Divisional Council held a meeting in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute on Thursday, June 17th, when Councillor Mrs. S. E. Ager gave an address on "Co-operative and Municipal Policy." Mrs. Ager has been again selected to contest the Fifth Park Ward in November next if her candidature was heartily approved.

**HILLSBOROUGH.**

The Hillsborough Divisional Council held a successful meeting in the guild-room on Thursday, June 25th, when the secretary outlined the summer programme as arranged by the executive committee, and as shown below—

- July 2.—Visit to "Sheffield Independent." Meet outside "Independent" office, 6.55 p.m.
- 9.—Repeat visit for those unable to attend July 2nd. Meet as above.
- 9.—Ramble, Blackbrook. Meet Institute, 6.45 p.m.
- 10.—Bison's paper mills, Oughthorpe. Meet Middlewood car terminus; time to be arranged.
- 23.—Sheffield City Abattoir. Meet main gates, Cricket Inn-road, 6.20 p.m.
- 30.—Sheffield Town Hall. Meet main entrance 2.30 p.m.
- 30.—Ramble, Nag's Head, Low

- Bradfield. Meet Institute, 6.45 p.m.
- Aug. 3.—Bank Holiday Monday ramble. Meet Institute, 10 a.m.
- 8.—S. and E. dairy, Millhouses. Meet city terminus for Millhouses cars, Town Hall, 7.55 p.m.
- 11.—Ramble, Little Mallock. Meet Institute, 6.45 p.m.
- 20.—Highways Department, Olivegrove. Meet top of Angel-street; time to be arranged.
- 27.—Ramble, Wadley Common. Meet Institute, 6.45 p.m.
- Sept. 3.—Ramble, Tap Water, Wadley Bridge. Meet Institute, 6.45 p.m.
- 10.—Ramble, Grenoside. Meet Institute, 6.45 p.m.
- 17.—Fire Station, Rockingham-street. Meet City War Memorial, Barker's Pool, 7.15 p.m.

\* These rambles may be commenced by the Women's Section in the afternoon, and those wishing to follow will meet at the time scheduled above.

A well-attended conference of the Hillsborough Co-operative and Labour parties was held in the Institute on Saturday, June 13th. The conference was addressed by the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P. (First Lord of the Admiralty). Councillor J. A. Loughead (chairman of the party) presided. The secretary of the Sheffield Co-operative Party and the secretary of the Hillsborough Labour Party also spoke. The conference was followed by an enjoyable tea, social, and dance.

**NEEPSDEN.**

The Neepsden War Committee are continuing with well-attended meetings

during the summer months. On June 10th, Councillor (Mrs.) Spright gave the Council report, read on June 17th, by Mr. F. L. Dunn spoke on "The New Social Order." In addition to the ordinary Council report meeting in July, Alderman F. Chavres will speak on an interesting report.

The Women's Section have continued their meetings, and have also rendered valuable assistance during the trade propaganda campaign.

**SOUTHLY AND NORWOOD.**

The Southly and Norwood Section are continuing their meetings during the summer period. On June 10th Alderman F. Chavres presented an interesting report of the City Council work. On June 27th there was a debate between Alderman F. Womersley and Mr. A. E. Butcher on "The Bible and the Bible Discussion." The range round the advisability of permitting public houses on the new housing estates. June 24th, a successful social and dance was held.

**Programme for July**

- July 1.—Cut-Bloom Show, to be followed by a play-reading.
- 8.—Alderman Watkins is to give the City Council report.
- 22.—Mr. F. L. Dunn will speak on "Professions and Trades."

**SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.**

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held a well-attended meeting in the guild-room, Cemetery-road, on June 8th, when Councillor J. Williams gave an address on "Poor-Law Administration." Next meeting in the guild-room on July 6th, will discuss other business for discussion which will be the forthcoming municipal elections.

**CO-OPERATORS' DAY.**

At their own world-wide celebration—Co-operators' Day on the first Saturday in July—co-operative movements in many countries have made a positive contribution towards world peace. By a common resolution passed on thousands of platforms in many tongues, in all quarters of the globe, the co-operative movement has stressed its forthright opposition to the city anti-co-operative institutions of war and preparation for war. More than that, the Co-operators' Day resolution points to the cause of war, and stresses the necessity for economic as well as military disarmament. This renewed pledge of co-operative brotherhood is as follows:—

This assembly of co-operators, met to celebrate the ninth International Co-operators' Day, renews its fraternal greetings to fellow co-operators throughout the world, and joins with them in a reclamation of their faith in the efficacy of our co-operative system; to make a material contribution towards the solution of those economic problems which, for a long time past, and which still, jeopardise national and international prosperity; to ensure peace and good-will amongst the nations where statesmen, diplomats, and politicians fail; and eventually to achieve a higher social order than that based on individual gain.

Co-operators emphasise the absolute necessity of economic and militarist disarmament as the indispensable preliminary to the maintenance of world peace and the achievement of a standard of life for the great mass of the world's population, which is the only true test of national or international prosperity.

The co-operative movement welcomes and supports all the efforts of a truly international character which are being made to secure these ideals, and pledges itself to give every possible assistance to their realisation.

The spirit of this resolution was incorporated in a special leaflet entitled "Peace and Prosperity: New Hope for the Nations," issued by the Publications Department of the Co-operative Union, and for use as Co-operators' Day festivals. Other leaflets, slogan posters, multi-coloured posters, rainbow flags and badges, were used in the big processions and public meetings, while of recent years have proved of great propaganda value to the movement as well as a means for emphasising the international nature and spirit of co-operation.

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ALL GARMENTS CUT AND MADE ON THE PREMISES.

## TEA—A CO-OPERATIVE TRIUMPH.

The tea cup fills such an important part in our domestic and social life that we are apt to forget the tremendous commercial importance which attaches to the daily filling of millions of teapots. Co-operators, however, have a special interest in tea, for their great organisation occupies the key position in the world's tea market. That priority has been built up on the basis of high quality, full weight (even in the days when it was customary to sell paper wrappers at the same price as tea), and the loyalty of co-operators to the exclusive brands which the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society has prepared and maintained. This year has seen a great reinforcement of the proud position occupied by the co-operative movement in the tea market of the world. Only a few months ago a wonderful new tea warehouse was opened on the side of the Manchester Ship Canal, and for the first time in history a complete ship's cargo of tea was delivered to one organisation. Now it is the turn of the London headquarters of our great co-operative tea service to signalise a notable extension which will make their tea warehouse the largest in the world.

### What the Premier Says.

It was fitting that the Prime Minister, himself a lifelong co-operator, should assist at the inauguration of the present tea warehouse of the empire. He paid a well-deserved tribute to the development of the work of the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, which has been responsible for the expansion of co-operative tea trade. Mr. MacDonald said:—

"Only in 1924 was the society established in its present form, but to-day it occupies the premier position in the Empire as growers, importers, packers, and distributors of tea. It is the combination of ideas and practical experiment that has made the co-operative movement great. Speaking as a customer and as a member, I say 'go on pioneering.'"

"Co-operators are opening new chapters of social organisation and reconstruction. . . . The ideas that flow from co-operative sources are ideas that are not shallow, but which have been tested by practical experiments. The movement has gone from stage to stage, widening and deepening, and now occupies a unique place in the history of human co-operation."

### One in Five.

The Premier's tribute to the importance of the E. and S. Joint C.W.S. was not a whit overdone. This society, owned and controlled by the co-operators of England and Scotland, supplies one-fifth of the entire tea supplies of Great Britain. Of every five teapots, one is filled regularly by co-operative tea.

Sixteen thousand people are employed in the task, apart from the many thousands of assistants in the local stores who carry out the work of retail distribution. The E. and S. Joint C.W.S. produces 2,800,000 lbs. of tea each week.

### Five Cups of Tea a Day.

According to the tea reports of the Imperial Economic Committee, people in Great Britain are drinking more tea than ever. Nearly five cups of tea are drunk per head of the population per day.

The annual consumption of tea in the United Kingdom now exceeds 430 million lbs. In the last twenty years the consumption of tea per head has risen from 6.48 lbs. in 1911 to 9.20 lbs. in 1929. The spread of the habit of taking an early morning cup of tea, the mid-morning cup of tea among domestic servants, shoppers, and business women, the early morning cup of tea in offices, and an increase of tea-drinking among manual labourers are social changes of recent years to which the report attributes some of the increase. The report estimates that in domestic use 1 lb. of tea will provide 180 to 200 cups.

## MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION TO ELECTRICAL PROGRESS.

This important contribution made by municipalities to the rapid progress in recent years in the supply of electricity was stressed by Mr. Herbert Morrison (Minister of Transport) at the annual dinner of the Incorporated Municipal Electrical Associations at Scarborough on June 28th.

After noting that during the first quarter of this year, despite the deep trade depression, the number of units generated in Great Britain had increased by 5 per cent. in comparison with the same period last year, Mr. Morrison said:—

"To the progress in British electricity supply the local authorities have made their contribution, and, indeed, the whole industry is indebted in many of the municipal undertakings for initiative and experimental work which has rekindled the credit of the industry as a whole."

"It is not generally realised that between three-fifths and two-thirds of the electrical supply industry is managed by public authorities. Nearly all the great towns and a large number of urban districts possess their municipal supply undertakings so that the sphere of public ownership in this vast industry is very extensive."

"The units generated by public authorities have grown from 3,910

million units to 6,383 million units during the last five years, the latest figure representing over 67 per cent. of the total units generated by authorised undertakers in Great Britain."

Mr. Morrison went on to speak of the enormous scope for further progress in this country, and of the need for co-operation by all sections of the industry. "A vitally important field," he said, "in which to apply an energetic progressive policy is still the field of domestic supply. It is to be hoped that we may extend the uses to which electricity can be put in the home. Charges should be reduced to increase demand."

### Larger Distribution Areas.

On the question of the organisation of distribution to secure the greatest economy and efficiency Mr. Morrison made the following weighty comment, which is of special interest to those who control municipal undertakings:—

"The Electricity Supply Act of 1919 made a great change in the organisation of the generating side of the industry. This change was resisted by many who did not fully recognise the importance of taking a national view of the organisation of the industry."

"I can rest of all sure that we can never assume that distribution itself can be handled in the best way within narrow territorial limits. Material economies are possible in distribution, but they require the creation of large units of distribution, and even the approach to the whole problem of distribution with a national rather than a local mind."

"The problem is one in which municipalities need companies are both very much concerned, and my advice to the local authorities would be: Do not let yourselves get outstripped by private enterprise by insistence upon rigid municipal distribution areas. Private companies do not work under the same restrictions in this respect as local authorities. The only thing that fetters a company is its articles of association and the order or Act under which it works, whereas there is a far greater degree of permanency about municipal boundaries."

"I will not go further into this interesting aspect of our modern electrical problems, but I mention the subject as one which is worthy of the consideration of those who, like myself, are friends of public enterprise in electricity supply."

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## COAL"

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It is Wiser to Store than to wait and pay more.

**ORDER NOW!** While prices, quality, and delivery are so favourable.

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# GOVERNMENT FOODS TORY OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

## CONSUMERS' BILL TO BE PUSHED THROUGH COMMITTEE.

### PASSAGE NOW PROBABLE.

Standing Committee B of the House of Commons met twice last week, and the net result of its deliberations was that nothing was done, that not another word of the Consumers' Bill was passed.

No doubt the Tories were well satisfied with their achievement when the Committee adjourned on Thursday, but on the following day they had small cause for satisfaction.

On that day the Prime Minister invited the House of Commons to empower the chairman of the Standing Committee to ride roughshod over the Tory opposition. And the House gave the chairman that power by a thumping majority!

#### Premier's Protest.

The Prime Minister reminded the House that the Consumers' Council Bill had been introduced in the Commons twice, that last year it could not get through a Standing Committee, and that this year no progress was being made. "At this rate of progress," he declared, "at least another two days will be required to pass the Bill." The proceedings in the Standing Committee had already become a farce, and on behalf of the Government he asked the House to give Mr. Scurr power to "select amendments."

#### Tory Obstructionists.

Of course, the Tories vehemently opposed this resolution. Mr. Baldwin protested against any form of closure that "enslaved discussion," and asserted that if the proceedings had been dilatory it was the Government who must bear the blame. Although the Bill was introduced in November of last year, it did not get its Second Reading until March, and the Committee Stage did not begin until June. Since then, he said, "the Bill had been going through with tolerable rapidity," and having regard to its importance the "kangaroo" closure ought not to be applied.

#### Lloyd George Supports Government.

Mr. Lloyd George, on the other hand, supported Mr. MacDonald, and went so far as to say that, in the interests of free discussion, he had always been in favour of the "kangaroo" closure in Standing Committees. Although he charged no one with deliberate obstruction, he observed that there were "men who had got the art of spinning it out to undue length." When the vote was taken the Prime Minister's motion was carried by a majority of 120.

#### Mr. Scurr, in his capacity as chairman of the Standing Committee, will now have power to expedite the passage of the Bill.

#### Purile Amendments.

The proceedings of the Standing Committee at its two last meetings were hardly worth reporting, except for the enlightenment of those who do not understand the Tory Party's tactics. At the first meeting, when the first sub-section of Clause 2 of the Bill was again discussed, Earl of Winterton proposed that no Member of Parliament should be eligible to become a member of the proposed Consumers' Council. He argued that

by becoming a member of the Council an M.P. would be placed in an "invidious position," and ill disposed persons might suggest, for example, that anyone connected with co-operative societies or with the retail trade might give biased judgments!

Earl Winterton supported his proposal in a lengthy speech, which was answered in a very few minutes by Mr. Alexander, who roundly said that, following the precedent established by Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, he would be at the Board of Trade, the Government held that the Board, in making appointments, should be completely unfettered and free to make the best appointments possible. After more debate, "A. V." moved the closure, and when the vote was taken Earl Winterton's proposed amendment was rejected by 27 votes to 14.

Then Major Colfox (Con.) proposed that no minister of religion should be a member of the Consumers' Council. He did so, he said, because he held that ministers ought to have the complete confidence of all the members of their congregations, and how could they have that if they were members of a body like the Council, and engaged in controversy.

Alexander, in his reply to this argument—if such it could be called—said that Major Colfox had proposed "to disfranchise from service on the Council" one of the very best parts of our proposed bill, and asked why it was inconsistent in a minister of the gospel to look after the interests of the ordinary consumer. Thereupon, this proposed amendment was also voted down by 38 to 16 votes.

Next rose Captain Hudson (Con.), who proposed that no member of a County Council should be a member of the Consumers' Council, but after a very brief debate he withdrew his amendment. Instead the Committee voted on another amendment, that no member of the L.C.S. should be a member, and rejected that by 26 votes to 81. That cleared the road for Mr. Culverwell (Con.), who proposed "that no adopted candidate for Membership of Parliament" should be a member of the Council.

In support of this rather weird proposal, Mr. Culverwell talked about "the inadvisability of making it possible for any corporation to steal into our national politics," and the "peculiar facilities" that a member of the Consumers' Council

would have for exploiting "the credulity of the electors." A candidate might say, for example, "If you send me to Parliament, I will see that the price of bacon or the price of cheese shall be reduced, or, perhaps, that the price of coal shall be increased." Such were the awful possibilities of awful corruption of the body politic!

The First Lord replied to this speech with vigour, and deplored the political bitterness that it had introduced. "For decades," he said, "the Conservative Party has been in the main composed of those who have had direct business interests to conserve"; but "A. V." could not then complete his statement for the Tories present were interrupting. But in the end the amendment received its protracted fate, for it was rejected by 25 votes to 12.

#### Co-operators Not To Be Barred.

When the committee met again its proceedings were not quite so farcical. After Captain Crookshank and the First Lord had adjured a personal "misunderstanding," Sir P. Cunliffe-Lister moved a widely-drawn amendment, still to the first clause of the Bill, declaring "that the Council shall be judicial in character, and that no persons engaged, for the purpose of trade or profit in industry, agriculture, trade, or commerce, in any capacity shall be appointed a member of the Council." He argued that the Council ought to be judicial and impartial, and pointed out that if a manufacturer was included among its members a co-operator must be excluded too.

Mr. Longden (Co-operative) interrupting him, promptly declared that Sir Philip was not doing justice to the 6,250,000 members of co-operative societies who would be excluded by his amendment. That gentleman said that while it would exclude directors and salaried officials of co-operative societies it would not exclude the ordinary member of a society. He spoke at great length, and Mr. Alexander admitted that it was a well-argued speech.

But the First Lord also pointed out that Sir Philip was departing from the basis on which he himself constituted the Food Council, and reminded the committee that the Bill itself provided penalties against the disclosure of private information. "Our intention is," he said, "to appoint an authoritative body, and to select persons who have the necessary experience and possess the confidence of the community."

This debate occupied almost the whole of the morning, but the amendment was rejected by 24 votes to 13 when the vote was taken, and the committee adjourned again leaving the Bill exactly where it was when the two hours of talking started!

#### Apology to Mr. Alexander.

When the Standing Committee met

on Tuesday Mr. Scurr at once exercised his new power to select amendments, and the first debate arose on a proposal sponsored by Earl Winterton and Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, that the names of members of the Consumers' Council, when it is appointed, should be laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament for twenty days before their appointment by the President of the Board of Trade becomes operative.

Sir Philip spoke in support of this proposal in his most persuasive manner, doing his utmost to enlist the few Liberals who were present. But his hopes—if he had any—of securing their support vanished when Sir Herbert Samuel said Parliament was already over-charged with work, and asked if the House of Lords was to be entitled to stop proceedings under the Bill when it became an act. "This amendment," he said, "raises a constitutional question."

Mr. Alexander had previously pointed out that there was no precedent for the course Sir Philip was proposing, and his remark that "not one new word of argument has been uttered during the last five sittings of the committee," proved most Lordly to the Tories. Even so the debate went on until "A. V." moved the closure, and then the amendment was rejected by 28 votes to 21.

The next amendment selected by Mr. Scurr was one proposed by Mr. Skelton (Con.), who wished the Consumers' Council to be free to appoint its own chairman instead of his being appointed by the Board of Trade. Mr. Skelton made an able debating speech, but carried on by his own rhetoric, he went much too far. First of all he suggested that in certain circumstances politicians might engage in the game of "scratch my back and I'll scratch yours," and he added, that if the Council was created by the present Government, the First Lord would probably "have some hand in the appointment of the chairman," and what was more likely than that he should "think of some of his co-operative friends"? One excited Tory at once ejaculated, himself! "But 'A. V.' was already on his feet, protesting that Mr. Skelton's unavertable remarks were not "in accord with the best parliamentary traditions." That gentleman promptly apologised, only to say that "among the people of great ability" who were suited to fill the chair, the people Mr. Alexander was "most likely to know are the co-operators!"

Thereafter, as Mr. Smith (Parliamentary Secretary) replied to the debate, the atmosphere was more than a little electric, but once again the First Lord moved the closure, and Mr. Skelton's amendment also was voted down. Then just as the committee separated, Mr. Alexander, amid cries of "gee," announced that his next "tweaking" he would move that the committee shall in future hold two sittings daily.

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