



# PROMINENT CO-OPERATORS IN THE FIGHT : : A CO-OPERATORS' "WHO'S WHO."

## Mrs. F. T. COWLEY Hillsborough Ward

Mrs. F. T. COWLEY increased Co-operative and Labour poll last year by 500 votes. An ex-Co-operative employee, has fitted herself for public service, devoted herself to the people's cause; just the right type for Hillsborough. Young, virile, years of service in front of her, challenges the right of a monopolistic capitalist Press and the moneyed class to determine the City's policy. A vote for Mrs. Cowley is a vote for a sound and ordered progress in the City.

## Coun. J. GILL Owlerton Ward

Councillor JAMES GILL represented Owlerton three years on the City Council. An ex-Schoolmaster, done splendid work on the



Mrs. F. T. Cowley.  
Hillsborough Ward.



Councillor J. Gill.  
Owlerton Ward.

Education Committee, Member of Public Assistance Committee, and Chairman of No. 9 District, with over 7,000 cases on the books. A really full-time representative. Has served Owlerton and the people well. The man for Owlerton on November 1st.

## Coun. F. W. R. STOKES Neepsend Ward

Councillor STOKES, an Engine Driver, with real driving force. Resident in Neepsend for twenty-eight years, has represented this Ward in the City Council three years. Worked in charitable, Co-operative, Trade Union, and Labour organisations might and main in the interests of the people. Knows every inch of the Ward, and along with his colleagues has made Neepsend brighter, and is still going forward with the real progressive policy in Health, Education, and Social Service.



Councillor F. W. R. Stokes.  
Neepsend Ward.



Councillor J. H. Skelton.  
Walkley Ward.

## Coun. J. H. SKELTON Walkley Ward

Councillor JACK SKELTON, Walkley's only working-man representative; the man to whom Sheffield largely owes its pure Meat supply and its hygienic Markets. Hundreds of tenants can thank Skelton for his work for the Tenants' Defence Association. Trade Unionists know his merits. Walkley cannot afford to be without a working-man representative. Councillor Jack Skelton is the man.

## Coun. J. DIMBERLINE, J.P.

### Darnall Ward

Councillor DIMBERLINE, forty years a Co-operator, forty years a resident in Darnall, president of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society Limited,



Councillor J. Dimberline, J.P.  
Darnall Ward.



Councillor S. H. Marshall.  
Tinsley Ward.

three years represented Darnall Ward on City Council. Has always been at the service of the Darnall people. Dimberline, tried and true. Darnall electors have no need for a change, and every reason to vote for his triumphant return to the City Council.

## Coun. S. H. MARSHALL Tinsley Ward

Councillor S. H. MARSHALL, the man who does the big things without missing the details, with six years' Council work good and constant. A Trade Unionist, a Co-operator, a Church worker—a worker for the workers. Resident in the Ward he represents. As a member of the Education Committee has given special attention to the Open-Air Schools, the Feeding Centres, and School Medical Service. Has interviewed over 5,000 electors personally. Tinsley electors! Make Marshall's majority equal to his service—and it will be a bumper.

## Coun. C. T. RICHARDSON Brightside Ward

Councillor RICHARDSON has represented Brightside three years on the City Council, on the Establishments, Highways and Sewage, and Old-Age Pensions Committees. A Co-operative Guildsman, a staunch Trade Unionist, a Brightside representative. Only apathy can keep him from the Council. Brightside electors should see to it that Richardson represents them on the local government to ease the burden of national Tory mismanagement.



Councillor C. T. Richardson.  
Brightside Ward.

# SIX YEARS of PROGRESS

In 1926—when the Labour and Co-operative Party first took control in the City Council—we issued a Manifesto outlining a programme of reform and development for Sheffield.

**We have fulfilled or are fulfilling every promise then made.**

Below we print the heads of the Manifesto issued on that occasion on the one side, and on the other the splendid results achieved.

## RATEPAYERS, EXAMINE

### PROMISE AND FULFILMENT

- |  |  |
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| <p><b>Abolition of Slums.</b></p> <p><b>Conversion of 4,815 Privy Middens.</b></p> <p><b>Abolition of 9,820 Ashpits.</b></p> <p><b>Pure Milk Supply to be ensured.</b></p> <p><b>Greater Maternity and Child Welfare Facilities.</b></p> <p><b>Develop Markets.</b></p> <p><b>More and Better Houses.</b></p> <p><b>Direct Labour Department.</b></p> <p><b>Establish Nursery School.</b></p> <p><b>Improve Primary Schools, make smaller Classes, develop Secondary Education.</b></p> <p><b>Promote Useful Work.</b></p> | <p>Demolished 891 Houses and Replaced with 880 New Houses.</p> <p>All Converted where Sewers exist.</p> <p>From 1920 to 1926 Tory Progressives abolished 894.</p> <p>From 1926 to 1932 Labour abolished 8,000.</p> <p>All premises now registered and inspected. Frequent samples taken for examination.</p> <p>Development indicated by the fact that attendances at Centre under Tory rule in 1926 was 1,090. Under Labour rule in 1931, total 12,353.</p> <p>New Fish and Meat Market erected. Old Market Site developed.</p> <p>8,963 Houses built or in course of erection since 1926.</p> <p>Built Schools, Houses, new Central Library, and other Public Buildings.</p> <p>Two Nursery Schools established.</p> <p>Sixteen new Schools and Departments built. 10,000 additional school places provided: Increased Secondary School places by 90 per cent.</p> <p>New Roads made, Tram Routes extended, Bathing Pool, Cricket and Football Pitches, and Bowling Greens provided in Parks. New Houses, Schools, Fire Station, Libraries, and Abattoir erected.</p> <p>The Act now fully adopted. No Blind Persons on the streets or in need. Built New Workshops, the best of their kind in the country.</p> <p>Hundreds of Allotments provided for the Unemployed.</p> <p>New Abattoir erected. Twenty-two tons of Meat per month destroyed as against eight tons per month in 1926. Old and filthy Shambles replaced by fine New Road.</p> <p>Ecclesall Woods, Burbage Moors, and various other open spaces secured.</p> <p>Mains laid throughout the City. Electricity Charges reduced to pre-war price.</p> <p>Miles of route added without extra charge in fares. Maximum fare reduced to 1½d.</p> |
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AND

# VOTE LABOUR



Labour has wiped out huge slum areas, and erected 974 houses to accommodate families thus displaced.  
**LONGLEY HOUSING ESTATE. An Example of Modern Town Planning.**



Tory "Progressives" in eight years built 8,317 houses. Labour, in six years, has built 7,831 houses of a much better type, and on proper town planning lines.  
**QUADRANGLE, PIPWORTH ROAD COUNCIL SCHOOL.**



Tory "Progressives" were threatened by stoppage of grants from the Government because of unsatisfactory provision for educational facilities. Labour has provided sixteen new schools. Secondary school places provided by Tory "Progressives" were 2,184. Labour provides 8,734—an increase of 29 per cent.

**BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF ABATTOIR AND MEAT MARKET.**



Before the abolition of the old Shambles, which Labour has now replaced by this splendid Abattoir, only eight tons of meat per month was condemned; now, under proper supervision, particularly the meat of most inferior quality is destroyed to meet the highest standards. Under the old conditions fourteen tons of filthy meat per month would still have been condemned to the people of Sheffield.



## Your Own Up-to-Date Christmas Magazine

Something to be Proud of—Something to Enjoy  
Something to Talk about.

SPECIAL ARTICLES, SEASONABLE STORIES, HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS, POEMS, JOKES, BRIGHT FEATURES, and A LAUGH IN EVERY ADVERT, TOO.

Forty-four Pages in attractive coloured cover

for **THREEPENCE**

Better value than any other Christmas Magazine

Robert Blatchford, Gordon Phillips (Lucia), H. M. Richardson, Michael Compton, R. B. Suthers, F. Hoole Jackson, Moyna E. Haywood, &c.

Fitz, Lance Mattinson, Gelli, Frank Whitburn, Fouet, Siegt, &c.

# CHRISTMAS : CRACKER :

THE CHRISTMAS PUBLICATION of the C.W.S PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

On Sale Middle of November by all Co-operative Societies

## Making New Records in our Drapery Dept.

**P**ARADOXICAL as it may seem, the present general depression is helping to increase our trade.

There can only be one reason for this most unusual state of affairs.

Depleted incomes are calling for more careful buying and the necessity for securing really good, sound value for money, with the result that more and more people are making The Arcade their shopping centre, and we are breaking Sales records in consequence.

### 3½d. CLUB REPAYMENT FORTNIGHT, Nov. 7th to 19th

is the period when we fully anticipate beating our previous best, for the value we shall offer in HOUSEHOLD FOODS, LAINES AND GRENTS UNDERWEAR AND FASHIONS, leave none being equalled. Make sure that you visit us during this time.

The Arcade - Ecclesall Road



## WHAT THE "NATIONAL" GOVERNMENT HAS COST SHEFFIELD.

RIGHT HON. A. V. ALEXANDER'S ADVICE TO SHEFFIELD ELECTORS.

MR. A. V. ALEXANDER addressed a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of electors at Edinall Council School, Walkley, on Friday, October 7th. He adopted as the main theme of his address, "What the National Government has Cost Sheffield."

Mr. Alexander first outlined the comparison of the Budget of April, 1931, and that of April, 1932, and clearly demonstrated the deficit to which the working classes had been called upon in the national sphere to make the major portion of the sacrifice necessary to balance the Budget on the National Government's plan.

When it came, however, to the actual effect upon Sheffield, the figures Mr. Alexander quoted were remarkable and striking. He showed, first of all, that during the term of office of the Labour Government, although the world depression had set in, and unemployment was constantly on the increase, the actual charge on the rates of the City of Sheffield for poor relief decreased. The poor rate levied in Sheffield for the financial year ended March 31st, 1930 (that is about ten or twelve weeks before the Labour Government took office), was 6s. 2½d. in the pound. For the year ended March 31st, 1930, after nine months of Labour Government, the poor rate was reduced to 5s. 2½d. in the pound. In the year ended March 31st, 1931, in spite of the constant increase of unemployment, the poor rate was reduced to 4s. 11½d. in the pound. This, of course, was because of the provision made by the Labour Government (a) in unemployment insurance payments, and (b) in the actual provision of work for the unemployed on schemes of public utility.

Mr. Alexander contrasted that with the experience since the advent of the National Government. The poor rate levied for the year ended March 31st, 1932, was 6s. 2½d. in the pound, practically back to the level at which it was when Mr. Baldwin's Government went out of office. Here was a clear case in which the National Government had relieved themselves of responsibility by placing the burden upon the locality. Moreover, the actual figures of persons in receipt of relief demonstrated that this increase had taken place since the

Labour Government went out of office. The comparative returns published in the "Ministry of Labour Gazette" in September, 1932, showed that in August, 1931 (i.e., the month in which the Labour Government went out of office), the number of persons in receipt of poor relief in the City of Sheffield was at the rate of 548 per 10,000 of the estimated population, but in August, 1932, that number had risen to no less than 1,052 per 10,000 of the population, and the total number of persons in receipt of poor relief in the City of Sheffield in August, 1932, was no less than 54,437, of whom 52,617 were in receipt of out-door relief.

Mr. Alexander added that the latter figures of increased cost to the city for public assistance showed that for the half-year ending September, 1932, compared with the corresponding half-year of 1931, the city would have to find between £60,000 and £70,000 more than in the previous year, which was equal to a rate of about 6d. in the pound. Altogether, therefore, the National Government had cost the City of Sheffield somewhere about an increased rate of 2s. in the pound, which the local ratepayers would have to provide, and yet in a few weeks' time the Liberal and Tory Coalition on the City Council would be appealing and complaining about high rates.

His hearers would be very ill-advised, especially in present national circumstances, to give any mandate to a local coalition as well as to a national one. He strongly advised all his friends to begin work at once on behalf of the Co-operative and Labour candidates who would be contesting the Municipal Elections.

### Proved by Merit

To be Worthy of the Name.

## "THE IDEAL"

Ladies' Tailor-made Costumes. Gentlemen's High-class Bespoke Tailoring. Boys' Hats and Suits.

Can be obtained at your Stores.

The Ideal Clothiers Limited Works - Wellington

### LEICESTER "SELF-HELP" BOOT & SHOE MANUFACTURING SOCIETY, 1, Duffield Rd., Leicester.

Manufacturers of all kinds of "SELF-HELP" Shoes.

### LADIES' & GIRLS' BOOTS & SHOES.

TRADE UNIONS EMPLOYED. All Workers are Shareholders. Profit divided between Labour, Capital and Customers. Ask at your Store for "SELF-HELP" Goods.

The breakfast food you need is one That's guaranteed to nourish So start the day with Shredded Wheat And end it with a flourish

# SHREDDED WHEAT



BRITONS MAKE IT—IT MAKES BRITONS

# LABOUR'S CIVIC RECORD

## Education, Health, Markets & Housing Successes. Cheaper Electricity

IT IS THE RATEPAYERS OF SHEFFIELD'S RESPONSIBILITY to examine the policies for which candidates stand. The Tory Progressives have no policy. There is purely a negative attitude and a cry for economy, without any indication where they intend to economise.

Labour has consistently worked to bring about order out of chaos. The annual expenditure of the Tory Progressives in 1923 was £3,106,160. Labour's expenditure last year was £3,082,650, including £60,000 towards repaying the Tory borrowings for Poor-Law.

Ratepayers are asked to look at the immense improvements in the city in education, health, hospital service, transport, electricity, housing, provision for the blind. You should remember the construction of new markets, abattoir, and other fine buildings replacing hideous and insanitary property.

We ask you to think of all that the raising of your business as a corporation involves, and call your attention to the following main factors in our civic life, assuring you that the greatest good of the greatest number has been the watchword of Labour.

### STATES.

#### Better Houses.

During the past six years Labour's progress in the building of houses has been obvious to all.

In the eight years ending November, 1926, the Tory Citizens provided 6,236 houses, whilst Labour, during the last six years, has erected 7,593 with 885 in the course of erection.

The houses produced by Labour are far superior in type and quality. An important factor, when it is realised that during the last year alone £48,000 has been spent on repairs to houses built by the Citizens. They thought modern conveniences unnecessary, and Labour has had to instal baths and hot water in the houses built by them. This has been done without any increase in rent.

The demand for houses built by the corporation is so great that it has been found necessary to restrict applications to families living in rooms or overcrowded conditions.

In the Manor Estate, the open spaces left desolate by our predecessors have been fenced in and made beautiful by the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers. Bowling greens and tennis courts have also been provided to the benefit of the residents on the estate.

Large slum areas have been completely wiped out, and 197 houses erected to accommodate the tenants of the condemned property.

### FINANCE.

In finance, Labour has shown a tremendous advance upon the methods of the Tory Progressives. Borrowing money for Poor-Law to the extent of £5,000,000, overdrafts at the bank, and the postponing of current payments were the order of the day. Labour now borrows for Poor-Law purposes, has completed payments of £200,000 of the Citizens' debt, and paid off, out of revenue, large numbers of small debts extending over periods of years.

By the purchase of land funds, Labour has bought land for cash, at a quarter of the total cost to the city by the old method.

Instead of sanctioning the payment of money for stupid tank works schemes, as the Tory Progressives did, where hundreds of men were employed for years, resulting in nothing to show for the expenditure, the Finance Committee has inaugurated schemes providing useful work for thousands of ratepayers in the city. This has been recently restricted by Tory policy.

### EDUCATION.

The necessity for an intelligent and educated democracy has been obvious to all thinking people, and has always been in the forefront of Labour's policy. It is common knowledge that, six years ago, Sheffield had received serious warnings with regard to the unsatisfactory and insufficient educational facilities of the city, and a threat of the withdrawal of the Government grant. The main features of complaint were the gross overcrowding in existing schools and large areas without schools. The public were also complaining of the insufficient number of secondary school places.

Labour has provided new schools and additional departments representing 9,797 primary school places, and other schools are being erected upon the developing municipal housing estates.

With the provision of an additional secondary school and intermediate schools, the number of secondary and intermediate school places in September, 1922, was 5,794, as against 3,184 in September, 1923, an increase of 80 per cent. This year the high peak of present vision has been met, and no less than 1,453 children have been placed in higher education institutions. Thus, Labour has removed the city's educational disgraces.

The poverty barrier between intelligent children and higher education has been overcome. During the last year, 667 pupils in secondary and intermediate schools have been in receipt of maintenance allowances, without which they would have been unable to continue their education at school. In addition, 191 free place scholarships have been awarded by the education committee at the High School for Girls, the Notre Dame High School, and the De la Salle College.

It is impossible effectively to educate a child who is hungry or suffering from defects, and this year the gravely increased numbers of unemployed have rendered it necessary to supply 1,740,000 meals to school children, and the clinics and open-air schools have rendered great service in maintaining or restoring the health of the children. Tuberculosis, anaemia, and malnutrition have been wiped out in hundreds of cases. The scholars who were suffering from sickness ravages have been cured and restored to normal work in the school. Hope and vigour have replaced the unnatural apathy and dejection which follows ill-health.

The general public must see that this work was essential if our children, the future citizens, were to keep abreast of requirements.

It will also be noted that the ramp of Tory reactionaries, clamouring for an increase of secondary school fees and money for the abolition of free places, is in full swing. The suggested raising of the fee to six, the charging of fees at elementary schools, and many other restrictions upon the educational facilities of our children, make it essential that Labour, after fighting to provide these facilities, should be returned in strong force to retain these rights for the children whose parents cannot afford expensive private schools.

### PRINTING.

The printing department has now been able to wipe off the whole of its capital expenditure, and make a further reduction in its charges for supplies to the City Council. These charges, compared with those made by private firms for the same quality goods, show an enormous saving, varying from 20 per cent. to no less than 80 per cent. in some instances.

### ELECTRICITY.

As in other departments, conspicuous progress has been made with electricity during the last few years. Six years ago the total number of consumers was 37,900. The total number to-day is 103,000.

Sheffield is keeping abreast with the rapid developments that are taking place continuously in the field of generation, transmission, and distribution of this indispensable service.

In connection with the national grid scheme for national development of electricity supply, Sheffield takes an important part. A new generating station has been constructed at Blackburn Meadows, where the latest modern electrical equipment is installed, which will increase the efficiency of generation and make available additional resources of energy.

Rapid growth is taking place in the number of domestic users. The assisted wiring scheme is the most successful in the whole country. No other service is destined to make more progress for the benefit of the city generally than this department. The main honeycomb every part of the city, being immediately available for every new consumer.

The popularity of the dot-meter scheme is remarkable. The reduction of the price from 8d. to 3d. so stimulated activity in this section that now the number of users is 34,000.

### TRAMWAYS AND MOTORS.

#### Increased Facilities and Reduction in Fares.

Transport is another department where Labour has pursued a sound policy. Instead of using profits for the relief of rates, as done by our predecessors, Labour commenced to develop the undertaking and pay off capital indebtedness. Routes have been extended without any increase in fares, and a reduction of 25 per cent. in the maximum fare has been made—a tremendous boon to those who have to travel daily to the city.

Trams are now constructed in the department's workshops by local labour. During the last year twenty-two cars have been completed at a saving of £12,760 to the ratepayers.

Approximately 7,000 free passes have been granted to blind persons and ex-servicemen who were gravely injured in the Great War. Cheap transport has been provided for over 30,000 persons visiting patients in the out-laying hospitals.

The new bus routes inaugurated by Labour have proved a great success. Sheffield leads the way in quality and design of its cars and buses, and improvements for the safety and comfort of passengers are continually being made.

### CITY HALL.

At long last the new City Hall has been completed, and this magnificent structure is now available to assist in the great work of cultural development and entertainment of the public.

Labour suspended operations on the hall for two years, in order to straighten out the financial mess left by their predecessors. The hauling of the hall provided 120,000 man days of work, thus preventing a greater wave of building workers and others from being cast upon local funds.

### LIGHTING.

The pledge given by Labour that they would light every corner in the city has now become an accomplished fact. The general lighting of the city has been considerably improved, and more economical methods adopted.

### HEALTH.

The various services in connection with maternity and child welfare have been fully appreciated, and the attendance made during last year number of times the attendances made during the year 1926. Nearly 40 per cent. of expectant mothers in this city were at the clinics.

In addition to the annex at the Edge Maternity Hospital, a maternity casualty department, and a waiting theatre are to be provided at the City General Hospital. The average maternity beds has been increased to thirty-six to eighty.

These additional facilities are fully reflected in the lowering of the infant mortality rate, which was seventy-nine per thousand in 1926, and only fifty-nine per thousand in 1931.

The death-rate from tuberculosis is the lowest ever recorded. In October, 1926, 147 men, women, and children were in urgent need of institutional treatment, and no accommodation was available. Labour provided the accommodation, and abolished the waiting list. All charges for treatment for any type of tuberculosis have also been abolished.

As a preventative measure, a school clinic was inaugurated, and the new type of the disease has been completely prevented.

Adequate provision for the blind and mentally defective at home has been made, following up our pioneering work in adopting the Blind Persons Act Workshops, the best of their kind in the country, have been provided for the benefit of blind in the city, and facilities given.

The public baths are proving to be more popular year by year. The total number of bathers using the baths in 1931 shows an increase of nearly a quarter-of-a-million compared with the figures of 1926. Clean bathing facilities are given to the unemployed, old-age pensioners, and scholars.

### RATING AND VALUATION.

The rating department has been organised and put upon a business footing, and the administration of the rates has been reduced by the amount of £8,000 per annum.

The old debt of £120,000, which accumulated before we took control, has been practically paid off.

The repayment of this debt has saved the corporation thousands of pounds per annum in bankers' interest.

The amalgamation of the collection of the general rate and water rate has saved the corporation at least £100,000 per annum. Labour has never had a debt on account of rate arrears. Without this fact, sympathetic consideration has always been given by the rates to cases of hardship.

Every few years the properties in the city have to be revalued by order of Parliament. Arrangements have been made whereby we can minimise the heavy cost entailed and undertake the work by our own staff, entailing a substantial saving to the ratepayers.

Business methods have undoubtedly been the key to the success of the department.

### POLICE.

A very high standard of efficiency maintained in the city's police force, in spite of the fact that it has only 277 constables to each of 727 of the population, as against one for 475 in the Metropolitan boroughs and one for 496 in Liverpool.

It will be remembered that the grave opposition the police box system was inaugurated by Labour, and proved to be very effective.

Again, the efficiency of the fire brigade is exceptionally high, and the new station the envy of other cities.



THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR.

"RATES," or "LIFE v. LUCRE."  
A MODERN DIALOGUE.

TORIES SCRAP SHEFFIELD'S  
FREE SECONDARY  
EDUCATION.

The Tory economy ramp is seeking to throw all kinds of additional burdens upon the family man, thus making it as difficult as possible for him to take his children.

It is not difficult to see what a morass this system will be in during the next few years if the Tory measure is not repealed. The entrants next year, who will occupy the between one-fourth and one-fifth of the school places will have to pay fees. The following year, another "wave" will pay fees, and so on until five years have passed, when all will have been submitted to the "Meas Test."

MONEY v. BRAINS.

The effect of this policy, in many cases, will be that people will refuse, cases, will be that people will refuse, and the smart and intelligent child will not receive the higher education for which he or she is suited. It will undoubtedly have the effect of the "cut" school being admitted to the secondary schools, because money will be a greater factor than brains in securing entry.

At the very last meeting of the Sheffield Secondary Schools Committee a number of hard cases of scholars in attendance at the secondary schools were subsidised and dealt with by the committee according to its discretion. No discretion will be allowed in the future for such cases.

The proposal that be seem to be gravely concerned about the amazing successes of the children of working-class parents in secondary schools, and are out to arrest that success.

WAR TRAINING—NO CUT.

It is worth noting that this Tory National economy proposal, which refers to State-aided secondary schools, makes no reference to certain other so-called higher forms of education decidedly more expensive. For instance—

Royal Military Academy, Woolrich, £200 per year for each of the 380 students.

Royal Military College, Sandhurst, £234 a year for each of the 570 students.

The Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, £498 a year for each of the 227 students.

Royal Naval College, £333 per year per head.

The average cost per child in State-aided secondary schools is approximately £29 per head.

Of course, it would not do to make any "cuts" upon this extravagant expenditure in training the rich man's son for war, though, apparently, it is very necessary to arrest the training and development of our girls and boys in the arts of peace.

Labour has increased the number of free secondary school places in Sheffield from 3,150 to 5,800—an increase of 50 per cent. Toryism will ravage this development, and every voter must remember that a vote for the Tory Progressives is a vote for the policy of the "Tory National" Government.

Vote LABOUR and PROTECT the EDUCATION of our CHILDREN.

Scene: A Sheffield street.

Smith: "Well, you know, we are paying far too much rates."

Brown: "Who has been telling you?"

Smith: "I heard a bloke of the 'Progressive' Party, and he didn't hall go for the Labour folk for their extravagance."

Brown: "And what did it consist of?"

Smith: "Well, I can't exactly say, but he said our rates were one of the highest in the country."

Brown: "And did he tell you that our proportion of unemployed was one of the highest in the country?"

Smith: "Oh, he wasn't talking about that."

Brown: "Certainly not; he wouldn't be. But do you know that if you take the large industrial towns in the country, Sheffield's rates are among the lowest?"

Smith: "If it were not for the amount spent on Public Assistance, for instance, Sheffield's rates for 1932-3, were 208. 6d.; Leeds, 212. 9d.; Birmingham, 214. 10d.; Manchester, 228. 1d.; Bradford, 238. 9d., and so on."

Smith: "That's not a new comparison on the matter. Still, he told us how high rates were a burden on industry and prevented the revival of trade."

Brown: "Did he tell you that a few years ago the Tory Government passed a law by which the rates of manufacturers were reduced to a quarter of what other citizens pay? Did he tell you they had derated machinery, which had also reduced them, so that the manufacturers of the city were only paying one-fifth of the rates they formerly did? And did he tell you that the lowest of trade improving in consequence, it had gone worse?"

Smith: "And is that actually the fact?"

Brown: "Certainly; if you will call at the Public Library you can easily confirm what I say. Now has it struck you that you get better value for your rates than for any other expenditure?"

Smith: "Now you are coming it!"

Brown: "Well, just listen. You agree with me that health is the most valuable thing we have."

Smith: "Certainly. Millionaires will give their millions for health."

Brown: "Very well; health is largely a matter of the care of municipalities. You can have Acts on the Statute Book, but they don't go very far unless you have energetic local bodies to execute them. Public health in this country has improved by leaps and bounds since the municipalities began to take an active interest in it in the 'nineties of last century, largely under the stimulus of the Social Reform and Labour movements which sprang up about that time. What is the result? Your Dr. Newman, in his report on the health of the country, has shown that, since that time, the death-rate of the country has actually been halved, and that the

average citizen lives on an average twelve to fifteen years longer than he did. Don't you think twelve or fifteen years more life is worth the increase in rates?"

Smith: "It is certainly remarkable. Still, there are other things besides health."

Brown: "Yes, take schools. The reduction in serious crime since the establishment of public education in 1871 is also remarkable. And what about the illiterate population? Then take libraries. They provide light reading for innocent recreation and save thousands from worse reading, but the amount of serious reading is quite considerable (37 per cent. from our lending libraries), which shows that the workers, and even the unemployed, are improving their leisure. As for houses, the municipalities were compelled to go into the housing business because private builders could not make a profit at anything like the rents charged by the Corporation."

Smith: "Look at the printing department and the money you have spent on it!"

Brown: "Yes, I will look at it with pleasure. It has not cost the ratepayers a single penny, not an odd cent. And it has brought thousands of pounds profit for the benefit of the ratepayers. It is one of the things of which we are very proud."

Smith: "Then why do the 'Progressives' decrease it?"

Brown: "You are very innocent, my friend, and it is to your credit. Don't you see it took a lot of profit away from the printers who formerly supplied the Corporation, and the interests of a few printers are more of importance to the 'Progressive' Party than those of the whole community. The 'Progressive' Party derive all their funds from private enterprise and naturally strive to please their paymasters."

Smith: "But don't you think rates are too heavy a burden. I mean should the citizens of Sheffield be forced to pay for all these things?"

Brown: "I agree with you. The ratepayers are helping the country by keeping it in health and improving its condition, and the country ought to assist local bodies more than it does. One thing, especially, is not the responsibility of the Corporation, and that is the burden of the poor due to unemployment. Unemployment is not due to local causes and should be a national burden. But the 'Progressives' are supporters of a so-called 'National' Government that is doing all it can to cut down social services, destroy trade, and to force the unemployed on to the Poor Law."

Smith: "No more 'Progressives' and 'National Parties' for me."

Brown: "Yes, my friend, but that is not enough. Join the Labour or Co-operative Party and help us to make our country prosperous and our cities beautiful."

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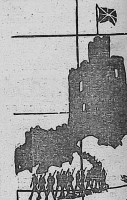
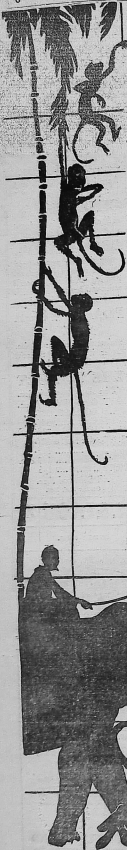
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