



# A REVOLUTION ON YOUR DOORSTEP

## CLEARING UP THE MILK MUDDLE OF TO-DAY.

### NEW MONOPOLY MENACE FEAR.

BY THE RIGHT HON. A. V. ALEXANDER  
(who was in charge of the Consumers' case at the recent public inquiry into milk marketing).

#### REVOLUTION IN MILK INDUSTRY.

AUGUST 1921 was the last day for the registration of producers under the Milk Marketing Scheme. As soon as the poll scheme has been taken, the scheme may be regarded as in operation. The result will be little short of a revolution in the milk industry.

That some such revolution was needed had been clear to all observant minds ever since the report of the Lighthow Commission in 1923. Co-operators have always been in favour of the promotion of orderly marketing between producers and consumers.

It is now over three years since Mr. S. Putter (London Co-operative Society) submitted a draft scheme for the organisation of milk marketing which was accepted in principle by the National Farmers' Union.

The scheme now about to come into operation, however, differs widely from any which had been contemplated by organised consumers, since it is to be controlled entirely by producers with statutory powers which, if improperly used, would lead to a virtual monopoly.

In this connection it is well to remember the great importance of milk as a daily necessity, the supply, the quality, and the price of which are vital elements in our national health.

The report of the Grigg Commission on the milk industry took particular notice of this, and specially pointed out that any scheme of milk marketing must recognize the important interest of the general public, and must prevent any combination to exploit the supply of milk at the consumers' expense.

#### CO-OPERATIVE REPRESENTATION.

The Grigg Commission strongly recommended the setting of a Joint Milk Consumers' Committee, in which the Co-operative Consumers' organisations, now taking retail distributors of milk, were to be given specific representation.

The fact that this great distributive organisation is in essence a consumers' movement has also assisted to keep down the margin between wholesale and retail prices, and to modify the hardness of purely commercial principles in the middleman section of the industry—at any rate, in its incidence on the consumers.

For these reasons they (the co-operators) are entitled to strong representation in any central system of control over the marketing of the nation's milk both in their own and in the public interest.

#### INTERESTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Grigg Commission has not accepted the Consumers' Committee's recommendations with regard to joint control. Consumers of milk will, therefore, have to pay careful attention to the results of the working of a purely Producers' Board.

Obviously, this country needs a wide expansion in the consumption of liquid milk, not only in the economic interest of the agricultural industry, but in the interest of public health. Our annual consumption of milk per



Right Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER.

head of the population is no more than twenty-two gallons as compared with fifty-five gallons in the U.S.A. and sixty-three gallons in Sweden.

It is equally obvious, however, that the great mass of the working classes cannot afford a much larger consumption of milk, even at present prices. Any attempt to raise the price to the consumer under the new scheme would, in my judgment, defeat its object by causing a reduced consumption.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that there have been occasions since the war when the margin between the wholesale and retail price of milk has been too wide, especially where milk has been sold from open cans instead of in sealed bottles.

I noticed, for example, an advertisement in a daily paper of a month ago for the sale of a small dairyman's business which claimed that the vendor was making a profit of 2s. 1d. per gallon!

It may be that the new machinery of the milk scheme will prevent such profiteering as this. I sincerely hope it will.

#### BASIC PRICE OF MILK.

It is true that a considerable section of our milk producers have been very handicapped by being unable to find a liquid market for their milk, and have had, therefore, to sell it for manufacture into cheese, butter, and other products at very low prices.

In future, all contracts for milk will have to be registered with the Board, and have to be registered with the producer made all payments to the producer subject to the Board. In effect, subject to adjustments for costs of transport, level adjustments, and quality premiums, dairy supplies, and quality premiums, the producer of milk in this country will

receive a universal basic price for his milk.

The difference between the wholesale price of milk for manufacture and that for liquid consumption being met out of the pool. This can only be done either by (1) reducing the present margin of the distributor, (2) reducing of the present price to the milk producer who sells for liquid consumption, or (3) increasing the price to the consumer.

As I have already indicated, the last method would defeat its own object. For example, one of our witnesses before the public inquiry was able to say from his experience in the grocery trade whenever the price of milk rises there is a diminution in the consumption of the liquid article and an increase in the demand for the tinned article.

On the other hand, there is perhaps something to be saved in the present margins in the distributive trade, but not sufficient completely to cover the cost of subsidising the milk sold for manufacture. It remains to be seen whether the present producers of milk for the liquid market will be content with a smaller net return than they at present receive, in the interests of their farmer conferees who produce for the manufacturing market.

#### UP TO THE PRODUCERS.

Fortunately, although the Ministry

of Agriculture declined to accept the Grigg Commission's recommendations for a Joint Milk Council, they have now agreed to a joint negotiating body to settle contract prices of milk, with three independent members who will have power to settle the price in the event of a failure to agree.

Something might perhaps be said as to the need for preventing the use of inferior tinned goods, like condensed skimmed milk. But if any action is to be taken in that direction milk producers must realize that they must deliver the goods in milk produce under clean and healthy conditions with a good standard of butter fat content and at a price which the working class consumer can afford to pay.

What British agriculture needs above all at the moment is a period of stability. If the Milk Marketing Scheme is worked wisely with real co-operation with the representatives of the distributive trade, and particularly of the consumers, this condition may be obtained so far as milk is concerned. But if the Commissioners attempt to use their monopoly powers in any unfair way, or to exploit the consumer, then they may be certain that there will be constant and widespread agitation until the law is amended.

## SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL SOCIETY'S HALF-YEAR'S RESULTS.

### MEMBERS' DIVIDEND AGAIN 1/10 IN THE POUND.

THE Sheffield and Ecclesall Society's recently-published 238th quarterly report and balance sheet contains much that will be of interest to its members.

Foremost is the committee's statement that taking all factors into consideration, the results of the half-year's trading operations are satisfactory, and have enabled them to recommend the payment of dividend to members at the rate of 1s. 10d. in the pound.

It may be of interest to recall, in passing, that this economical return on purchases has been maintained at this very satisfactory rate for the past seven half-years.

The cash sales for the twenty-six weeks ended July 27th, 1933, amount to £245,077, and have produced a new annual business figure of £1,058,923; a slight decrease of 1'69 per cent. compared with the previous year. Sales of pasteurised milk continue to increase, and total for the half-year 372,188 gallons, equal to 3,777,594 pint bottles. This represents an increase of 61,359 gallons on last year; whilst the year's total sales reached the remarkable figure of 7,336,248 pint bottles.

Members' share capital at the half-year end was £557,577, an increase of

£20,206 over the previous year. Contributions continue to reach a high level, £45,607 having been received during the half-year, making the year's total £92,940.

New members to the number of 2,272 joined the Society during the twenty-six weeks, and with withdrawals for various reasons, plus the deletion from the register of members who have ceased to trade, there remains a membership of 47,853.

Depositors in the small savings department to the number of 14,279 have to their credit £38,529, which represents an increase for the year of 333 depositors and £9,344 in deposits. Members are notified that the half-yearly audit has been changed from January and July to April and October, with a view to relieving the pressure of the half-yearly stocktaking period during the former months. It is hoped to scheme the pass books at an earlier date as a result.

The death benefits scheme has met 413 claims during the half-year with payment of £15,600, and the scheme which brings the total since it commenced to 8,489 claims and benefits paid £47,872.

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**THE BATHING POOL AT THE TOWN HALL!**

Hot weather at the last two Council meetings has no doubt accounted for the generally weak and drowsy speeches. The swimming pool at Millhouses has probably proved more interesting than anything else—perhaps because the subject is a cool one!

The Parks Committee recommended that the pool be open for swimming on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Alderman Jackson moved that this extension of time should not be granted. If this amendment had passed, the pool would have been closed at noon.

Obviously, his particular views of "keeping the Sabbath" shared by many other councillors were responsible for the amendment. But what right has any councillor to prevent citizens from doing any reasonable thing on Sundays or on other days? Citizenship is more important than the office of councillor or alderman. In fact, the sole reason for having both councillors and aldermen is that they may be servants of the citizens—and must be. And now, those whose Sabbatarian views do not permit them to approve of Sunday bathing; well, they need a bath! 8 a.m. can use the Millhouses Pool from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**SENDING ORDERS OUT OF SHEFFIELD.**

This is an old subject, but it crops up at almost every meeting of the Council. It appears that only one Sheffield firm submitted a tender for police clothing and it was proposed to place the order outside Sheffield. This, mark you, is the "Progressive" view. What hours of "retrospective indignation" would have sent the air if a Labour majority had proposed such a thing! Naturally, however, the Progressives find that circumstances alter cases. In power, they have to act with something approaching reasonable intelligence at times, even if they have to swallow their own words over the matter. The fact plainly is, of course, that it is neither possible nor desirable to adopt a hard and fast rule of sending no work out of Sheffield that can be done in the city. To attempt to do so would inevitably result in other towns and cities withholding work from Sheffield, and we should be faced with the same difficulties that pertain nationally in every country in Europe. The simple rule to adopt is: Place the contract in Sheffield where price and quality are reasonable, but don't hesitate to go elsewhere—in Britain at any rate—when there is better quality or lower price by doing so. The citizens desire goods to be brought that are of low price and excellent quality, and it is no advantage to the great body of citizens to waste their money by over-paying for inferior Sheffield goods.

The case brought up in connection with police clothing clearly did not necessitate going outside Sheffield, and

the Council compelled Councillor Hunter and the Watch Committee to cancel a decision arrived at, and buy the clothes here.

**TRAMS OR BUSES.**

Those who consider the bus better than the tram for the short-distance transport service within a great city will consider a victory has been won by the decision to abolish trams on the Edge route and substitute buses. The tram was within sight of needing extensive and expensive repairs, and over the next five or six years the cost would have been at least as heavy as buses. In our opinion, it is a wise decision, for the greater flexibility of a bus service is an advantage that Sheffielders have yet to experience. We think that this decision will lead in due time to the substitution of buses for trams on most—probably all—routes, such will be the effect of the object lesson.

**PLAYGROUNDS.**

The trustees of the late T. W. Ward have given a plot of ground in Furnace Hill, and the J. G. Graves' Charitable Trust are equipping a children's playground at Attercliffe. We are beginning to expect one such offer each month, and whilst there is every reason for being grateful by the generosity of donors, there is another aspect of the question. A playground can be a nuisance—to the adjacent householders! We can imagine the Bishop, for example, would hardly like a playground "domating" hard by his house. Neither should we! The case is even worse where—as is frequent—the dwellers near by have set a strip of garden or space of any kind to separate them from the necessary noise of a children's playground. They can't refuse to come room in the house that is a little quieter—there is no second room, except a bedroom; and even that is as near!

We suggest that in future the Parks Committee, the Improvements Committee, and any charitable organisations willing to give land, should co-operate and place the playground as part of a planned scheme which at one and the same time gives a playground to children, a garden to tired parents and grandparents with a bedlam on the doorstep! We are sorry that the community ever allowed its hands to become private property, and thus rob the children of simple accommodation. It isn't too late, even yet, and those landowners who haven't given could be suitably "taxed."

**LEGAL GENTLEMEN.**

It is not often that two legal gentlemen are discussed in one Council meeting, but after criticising the action of one legal officer, Council's attention was turned to the attention of a stipendiary magistrate. It has decided to have an inquiry into the advisability of such an appointment. Presumably this on the grounds that there will be economy in the matter given, and a relief of time to many magistrates. There is as much good reason for having a city manager—more, in fact; and we hope both measures will be considered.

In addition, there was a resolution proposing inquiry into the desirability of an Assize Court for Sheffield, since at present all cases referred to the Assizes are heard at Leeds. There can be no question as to the benefit of such a development, on the score of general convenience to all parties who have or will have business of any sort at the local Assize. There is no question of dignity of the city; it is merely a matter of clear advantage.

**CORPORATION EMPLOYEES.**

It is rather a pity that those workers cannot retire at sixty-five as a matter of course in these times. One such Labour member does not attend to the case and asked whether the particular worker could not be retained. Speaking

(Continued in next column.)

**THE POOR ARE CHARGED TOO MUCH FOR WATER!**

At the last Council meeting, comments were made upon the increased water charges. How grossly unfair these are does not seem to be commonly known. The Council itself appears to be aware of this on the whole matter, and we are therefore giving below, for the benefit of all citizens, particulars of the increases so far as they affect house property. The tenants pay the water rates in all the cases, either direct to the Town Hall, or by additions to and included in their weekly rents.

Once more we have an example of protecting the rich at the expense of the poor. The lower the THE HIGHER, house in which you live, THE HIGHER, RELATIVELY, WILL BE YOUR WATER RATE!

Here is an extract from the new list—

Rateable Value.	New Water Rate.	%	d.
£ 1 s. 4.	7 11 0	—	12 5
10 0 0	17 0 0	—	9 0
30 0 0	31 0 0	—	14 4
50 0 0	52 0 0	—	10 0
100 0 0	100 0 0	—	9 0

Why not raise the water rate on the same basis as the general rates? Why have it singled out for special treatment, to the injury of the poor, the out-of-work, and the low-earning class? Why should a well-to-do citizen pay Why should a holder of his rateable value for water (49 on £100, as shown), while the 100 s. 10s. 10s. pays only 28 per cent (49 1/2)? Here is a list of the percentages on the above rateable values—

Rateable Value.	New Water Rate.	%	d.
£ 1 s. 4.	7 11 0	—	12 5
10 0 0	17 0 0	—	9 0
30 0 0	31 0 0	—	14 4
50 0 0	52 0 0	—	10 0
100 0 0	100 0 0	—	9 0

The smaller tradespeople are hit with similar unfairness. Lock-up shops, offices, and warehouses are to have revised charges as follows—

Rateable Value.	New Water Rate.	%	d.
£ 0 12 4	0 12 4	—	8 8
10 0 0	10 0 0	—	8 8
30 0 0	30 0 0	—	6 6
50 0 0	50 0 0	—	5 3
100 0 0	100 0 0	—	3 5
3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	3 0 7

The only fair and reasonable way is to add the water charge in all these cases to the general rate, and proportion it out with at least as much fairness as we show in charging for other public services. This will be at least one small step towards the Co-operative Commonwealth!

(Continued from previous column.)

personally, the writer of this survey thinks that even worse results follow the leaving on of such workers than would happen if they were discharged. In a reasonably decent civilisation, of course, such workers would retire on entirely satisfactory circumstances. But to retain a man of sixty-five because he would have to go on Public Assistance means that some worker of about thirty-five must remain on public assistance. This is the wrong way of distributing work altogether. It is better that a man of thirty-five with wife and employment would have the higher pay that his wife also. As to the finding behind the criticism raised by Councillor Woodcock, we know that there can be no question as to its fine quality. All citizens have a right to the Council's consideration, and not employees only. But we should prefer to make the loss of an easy one who has reached sixty-five or more, retirement, with sufficient arrangements for helping them to use their time. The Boy's Clubs may be good, but the retired workers' clubs are not less necessary. It is hopeless for a man to use his time intelligently when he has never had spare time before; and retired life for such folk is apt to be both short and dull.

J. H. B.

**SHEFFIELD REPERTORY COMPANY.**

The Repertory Theatre opens the autumn season on Saturday, September 16th, with "Private Lives," by Noel Coward, will be given for a fortnight's run. This is its first performance in the city, and Neil Porter, who is leaving the company at the end of October, in addition to producing, will play the part of Victor Fyrene.

The "Broad-winner," by Somerset Maugham, will be the next play, to be followed by "Gallows Glorious," by Ronald Gow, a magnificent play with John Brown as its hero. Neil Porter will make his farewell appearance in the part of John Brown.

Other plays included in the programme are "The Truth Game," by Ivor Novello, and a new play, with unemployment as its theme, by T. Alec Seed, a Sheffield man well known in amateur dramatic circles in the city.

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# CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

## ATTERCLIFFE.

Not attendance at the Attercliffe Divisional Council meetings has been affected by some extent to the glorious summer weather. At a meeting held on August 16th, Councillor W. G. Robinson was the speaker, and dealt very effectively with the work of the Labour and Co-operative members on the City Council. In the course of his address, which dealt principally with the housing question, Councillor Robinson pointed out that the limit of the "Progressive" Party's vision was twenty houses a week.

The Divisional Council are commencing the winter session with a business meeting on Friday, September 22nd. On Monday, October 26th, there will be a workers' meeting with the address by Councillor E. S. Nicholson, J.P. For the rest of the winter session the secretary is arranging for a series of lectures on the Co-operative Party's programme.

## BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Divisional Council are commencing their winter session with a meeting and social evening on Saturday, October 7th, at the Sheargreen Co-operative Institute, Bellehouse-road. Councillor C. T. Richardson will be the speaker. Admission to the social, 3d. Refreshments will be on sale at moderate charge. Secretary, Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sneyce-avenue.

## BURNGREAVE.

The Burngreave Women's Section had an interesting visit to the King Edward VII. Hospital, at Rivelin, on August 31st, kindly arranged through Councillor J. A. Longden.

They recommence their weekly meeting at the Burngreave Vestry Hall, on Wednesday, September 6th, at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. Yelland, 25, Catherine-road.

## HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Party have suspended most of their usual activities during the summer months, although they have held one or two business meetings. On August 8th an enjoyable dance and field day was held at Stacey Bank.

The first annual singing match was held during the summer period. The prize-winners were: Mr. Whitely, L. Rogers, Mr. Skanforth, Mr. Greenwell, wife of the club secretary, presented the prizes.

At a largely-attended meeting, held on August 30th, Mrs. H. Mitchell was unanimously adopted as the Co-operative candidate for the Hillsborough Ward at the next municipal elections. (Review of Mrs. Mitchell's work and career will be found elsewhere in this journal.)

The winter session will commence with a social and dance on Wednesday, September 13th, at 7.30 p.m. in the large institute. The first meeting will be held on September 14th, in the guild-room. The secretary has fixed up a programme of meetings from this date until the end of April, 1934. Amongst the speakers are a number of aldermen and councillors; also Mr. A. B. Griffiths (city treasurer), Mr. J. P. Lamb (chief librarian), and others. There are also to be a number of cinema lectures, mock city council, &c. The session bids fair to be the most successful the party has had, and all members who have not rejoined should obtain their membership card at once.

The Women's Section have continued their meetings through the summer with the exception of the first three Mondays in August, and Miss Maud Maxfield addressed a well-attended meeting on July 31st, on "The School Medical Service of Sheffield." Miss Maxfield delighted the audience with her easy account of one of the most beneficent public services in the city.

The session will commence on Monday, September 4th, with a tea for members only, to be followed by a social and dance, admission 6d. The Women's secretary is preparing an interesting programme of meetings, socials, &c., to be held every Monday afternoon; and we are asked to appeal to old and for new members during the coming season. Meetings commence 3 p.m., and are held in the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute, every Monday. Membership 6d. per annum. Secretary: Mrs. R. M. Wood, 133, Hillsborough-place.

## NEEPSAND.

The Neepsand Ward Committee have continued their monthly meetings through the summer. On August 2nd a special business meeting was held; and on the 9th Councillor (Mrs.) Speight gave an interesting report of City Council work. A business meeting is to be held on Wednesday, September 6th; and the monthly City Council report is to be given on the 13th by Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P. Both meetings commence at 8 p.m., and will be held in the Institute, Mansers-street.

The Women's Section held their annual outing on August 21st, when they spent a most enjoyable day at Scarborough. They recommenced their meetings (which are held at the Co-operative Institute, Mansers-street) on Monday, August 28th, with Mrs. S. E. Agar (director, Brightside and Carbrook Society) as speaker on "The Trade Propaganda Campaign."

September 4th will be the usual monthly social, 11th, a report from the W.E.A. summer school at Aberystwyth by Mr. J. J. W. Wright, 19th, Mr. A. E. Butler, and 25th, Councillor (Mrs.) Speight will be the speakers.

## SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Party have held only one meeting during August, on the 9th, when Alderman J. Howat gave a very able report of City Council work, and he also reported that the public convenience for Longley

Park would very likely be installed in the near future. The usual weekly meetings will commence on Wednesday, September 13th, when Councillor J. A. Longden will give the monthly City Council report. The secretary has fixed up an interesting list of speakers, and amongst the Southey people are looking forward to a successful session.

The Women's Section held their opening social on August 30th, September 6th, Mrs. Miller will be the speaker; subject, "Dialect." 13th will be the usual business meeting. A speaker has also been engaged for the 20th, and on the 27th a social. Meetings held Wednesday afternoons in the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue, commencing 3 o'clock. Secretary: Mrs. A. Allen, 163, Everingham-road.

## SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section will commence their new session by a meeting in the Cemetery-road guild-rooms on September 18th, at 7.45 p.m. Amongst the speakers arranged for the session are: Mrs. H. Mitchell, Mr. W. Berry, Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., and Mr. G. W. Rison.

The party is also taking an active interest in the guild rally to be addressed by Mrs. Eva M. Christie (national organiser, Co-operative Party). This meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27th, in the Cemetery-road Vestry Hall, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Christie is to speak on "Unemployment: The Co-operative Programme." Secretary: Mr. C. H. Green, 17, State-street.

## RT. HON. A. V. ALEXANDER.

We are pleased to report that Mr. Alexander has been discharged from hospital, where he underwent an operation, and is now convalescent. He is taking a short holiday, and it is hoped that he will take up his duties again in a few weeks' time. Mr. Alexander asks us to thank his many friends for their letters and resolutions of good wishes, as it has been impossible to reply to all of them individually.

THINGS THAT CONCERN US ALL.

# WHILE THE WORLD TALKS..

While statesmen utter noble phrases about Co-operation, and the world grows weary of wasted words, we carry on with the serious work of co-operating. Others talk . . . we get along with the job.

Six million of our countrymen shop at the Co-operative Societies, of which these six million are the only owners and controllers. The Societies own and control us—their wholesale and manufacturing agency—and we, with our works and shops throughout the country, work consistently for the benefit of those six million and their families. Here is Co-operation in its most sensible form; here is precept wedded to practice.

If you are a co-operator, strengthen this useful service by buying the products of your own system. The movement depends for its future progress upon the support you give to its achievements. Buy "C.W.S." when shopping at the "Stores," and so encourage the growth of real Co-operation.



The C.W.S. supplies the needs of life to Co-operative Societies for their members

# EXCURSION TO LOWE TOFT

Saturday, September 16th, 1933,

including an organised visit to the great

Co-operative Exhibition, and an inspection of the C.W.S. Canning and Preserved Food Factory.

Luncheon and Tea to be served in the C.W.S. Factory Dining Hall, Weaverby Drive.

### COST:

\*Rail Fare - 12/6    Luncheon - 1/6  
Tea - 1/-

\*Rail fare 13/- for Wadding Bridge and 12/- for Kierston Park and Weavay passengers.

OUTWARD		TRAIN TIMES		RETURN	
Wadding Bridge	.. depart 5.30 a.m.	Lowestoft	.. .. depart 7.40 p.m.		
Norwood	.. .. 5.35	Weavay	.. .. arrive 12.30 a.m.		
Sheffield (Victoria)	.. .. 5.45	Wrecclesham	.. .. .. 12.35		
Dormal	.. .. .. 5.50	Woolhouse	.. .. .. 12.40		
Wrecclesham	.. .. .. 5.55	Town	.. .. .. 12.45		
Wrecclesham Park	.. .. .. 6.00	Sheffield	.. .. .. 12.50		
Weavay	.. .. .. 6.15	Norwood	.. .. .. 1.00		
Lowestoft	.. .. arrive 11.55	Wadding Bridge	.. .. .. 1.23		

SPECIAL "BUSES" will be arranged to meet the return train at the Sheffield (Victoria) Station to convey passengers to the various districts.

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**EVERYBODY COULD BE COMFORTABLY OFF**  
**TO-DAY. IF—**

**WHY POVERTY IS QUITE**  
**UNNECESSARY.**

Why is there poverty in an age of plenty? Are British workmen and women really revolutionary? Why are some people Conservatives, and why do Conservatives keep the working class down? Why is there less work under the Conservatives? How can we get our people back to work? These questions are all answered, quite simply, in the article below.

—How any man or woman in the street and ask: "What do you want most in the world?" Ten to one, they will reply: "I want a regular job."

Most British men and women of the working class are satisfied with little. Give them a regular job, and they won't ask for more. So long as a steady income always flows in, they have got what they want; and they are willing to do a good week's work for the income.

**WITHOUT INCOME.**

"A good week's work." Aye, there's the rub! We are told that three millions of people in this country are deprived of the chance to do a good week's work. Reckon up all the unemployed workers in this country, registered or unregistered, add their dependents, and the total reaches something like one in every six of the British population—one British citizen in six, deprived of the benefits of a steady income; one person in every six suffering serious poverty.

British workmen are not revolutionary; but if things continue to be as bad as they are, the British people may become revolutionary.

Is poverty avoidable? Is not poverty "an act of God"? The Conservative says: "There always have been poor, and there always will be poor." Is the Conservative right? He used to be right. He is not right now. A Conservative who, in 1763, said: "There always have been poor and there always will be poor," would have been speaking the truth according to the lights of 1763. But not according to the lights of 1933.

About 1763 James Watt invented the steam engine. And that invention changed the whole outlook of mankind.

Since Watt's day generations of scientists and inventors have endowed mankind with means of winning from the earth wealth in an abundance that would have seemed impossible to our ancestors.

**ABOLISH POVERTY.**

What is wanted to-day is means whereby all may share in that abundance. Once such a means is found, there will be no more poverty.

To abolish poverty was utterly impossible in 1763. To abolish poverty is quite feasible in 1933. Therefore, the Conservative is wrong when he says: "There always has been poverty, and there always will be poverty."

Why, then, is not poverty abolished? The answer is: "Because the ruling class refuses to abolish it."

Why do our Conservative rulers refuse to abolish poverty? The answer is: "Because they are afraid for their

own wealth and power. They keep the workers poor so that they themselves may remain rich."

There you have it—fear! The selfishness of our rich Conservative rulers, who keep the working class down while themselves enjoying abundance, is the outcome of fear—the fear, of having to go short.

That fear is inherited. It comes to us all from our ancestors in the days before 1763—the days before James Watt and the other inventors had made abundance available to all.

In those days men had only the muscular energy of themselves or their tamed animals wherewith to win the earth's riches. But now, all is changed! Men to-day can command the boundless energy which the sun for millions of years has been storing in the coalfields and oil measures.

In those days there was always the danger of shortage, famine, that danger, ever in men's minds, made men afraid, selfish, mistrustful of each other.

**PLENTY FOR ALL.**

In those days there was good reason for fear. There was not enough to go round.

But to-day it is all different. There is far more than enough for all. There is far more than enough to go round.

There is so possibility whatever of famine causing the trouble it used to cause. A local famine, here or there, perhaps! But it would not do much harm, because supplies can swiftly be rushed, nowadays, from one end of the earth to another.

So there is no need for fear! Our Conservative rulers, in keeping the working class down, are behaving in the style of 1763, not as they should be have in 1933.

And so we come back to the problem: How to enable all mankind to consume the abundance that science and invention have made possible! The solution is: "We must see that all people are able to enjoy regular, steady incomes."

**CUTTING THE POOR.**

The easiest way to get an income is to be a tax. Therefore, if we want to provide abundance for all, the easiest way is to provide work for all. And if there are people for whom we cannot find work, we must see that they are able to draw incomes just the same, either as Labour Exchange benefit or in the form of pensions. The Conservative Party is the party of people who derive their incomes from profit, or dividend. Therefore a Con-

servative Government has little interest in looking after the propertyless workers who have to depend on wages from work, on Labour Exchange benefit, on pensions or Public Assistance.

A Conservative Government cuts wages, if it can. It reduces Labour Exchange benefit, if it can. It keeps Public Assistance as low as possible, and it refuses pensions as often as it can find an excuse for refusing them. There is only one limit to the extent to which a Conservative Government will cut the working class in this way; if it goes too far with its cuts, the working classes will vote against Conservative candidates.

The vote is, in fact poor people's greatest weapon against the Conservatives.

A Conservative Government does not bother about providing plenty of work. It prefers to keep up the value of money (what it calls "saving the pound"); and the way to "keep up the value of money is to keep money short. That is the reason for "cuts," "economy," and other Conservative policies. That is why there is less work under the Conservatives.

**MAKING WORK.**

But a different policy will be followed by the next working-class Government (Labour and Co-operative) if it gets a majority. So far no working-class Government has ever had a majority.

The next working-class Government will provide plenty of work in a co-operative way—not work for private employers, but for the nation itself.

Just as, during the war, the British Government organised all the country's resources to defeat the German enemy, so the next working-class Government in Britain will organise all the country's resources to defeat a stronger enemy still—poverty!

There was plenty of work during the war; there will be plenty of work again, if only the people give a good Parliamentary majority to the Co-operative and Labour Parties.

Plenty of work? How? By means of the Co-operative Party's policy.

Electricity will be carried all over Britain, and the railways will be electrified. This will start the electrical and engineering industries in such activity as they have not known since the war.

**CO-OPERATIVE PARTY PLAN.**

The development of nationalised railways and public road services will mean the building of locomotives, of passenger coaches, of goods waggon, of all kinds of railway material.

London's tube system gets a boost for extension. Railway stations in London and the other big cities urgently need to be rebuilt on up-to-date lines as terminals for rail, road, and air services, all in one.

Road development will mean lots of work in the widening and straightening of roads, in the making of new ones, in bypassing towns and villages so as to reduce the toll of road accidents, in making new tunnels (like that needed under the Thames) and new bridges (like that which ought to span the Humber).

All these things, and more, the next Labour and Co-operative Government will do so as to get the population back to work.

But only if it gets a majority!



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# THE MENACE OF FASCISM.

This is the subject and title of a recent book by JOHN STRACHEY (published by Gollancz at 5s.). It ought to be read by all co-operators and trade unionists for it deals with a most important possibility. The brief conclusion at which he arrives is this: That capitalists will have Fascism in England rather than risk the loss of their property by evicting the peaceful action of a democratic Parliament working by constitutional method.

This short review is not intended to give any summary of the case he argues, but to urge all who read this to read Mr. Strachey's book.

## GERMANY AND ITALY.

Surveys are given of Fascism as exemplified in these two countries. Says he: "Their 'whole talk of national planning', 'national Socialism', and the 'Corporate State', is sheer unadulterated bluff. . . . We find that 'the other element in their economic programme' which is 'anti-monopoly, anti-bank, anti-trust' . . . is never carried out in such a way as to prejudice the interests of a single big monopoly, bank, or trust. All it comes down to in practice is the wrecking of the trade unions and co-operatives, and the reduction of the workers to that state of subjection out of which they have struggled during the last century."

## THE THREAT.

Mr. Strachey's personal view of the result of possible Fascism in Britain is given in his own words. "A form of Fascist wrecking, which was particularly prominent in Italy, was the wrecking of the co-operative movement. The form of workers' combination in which is becoming highly developed in Britain, would undoubtedly be one of the first victims of Fascism. Already, the National Government has opened the attack by imposing taxation on the co-operative societies."

Of course, there are people who frankly disbelieve in the possibility of Fascism in Britain. But who would have thought, ten years ago, that the Philip Borsari who perhaps spilled more virulent argument over the House of Lords than any other critic, would himself become Lord Snowden? True, present circumstances do not permit a dictatorship, but they are continually changing; and the extreme feebleness of Parliament in attempting to deal with the economic situation is slowly leading to promote the atmosphere in which some form of dictatorship may be all too easily possible.

## THE PURPOSE OF FASCISM.

Democratic observers of the doings of Fascism quite agree with Mr. Strachey that its purpose is "to smash ownership—to smash private machinery by which the democratic obtain a measure of political power; to abolish freedom of speech, since to the worker must be 'listen to agitators'; and to withdraw the trade unions and co-operatives to destroy the trade union and co-operative, which are the fundamental forms of working-class organisation."

## THE LABOUR PARTY.

Moreover, Mr. Strachey is a critic of the Labour Party. In agreement with them upon the rights of workers; he thinks the leaders of Labour are bound to play into the hands of Fascism. They did the Social Democratic in Germany. You cannot, says he, ask the workers to endorse "the Means Test NOW, and yet call on them to break the back of the capital THREE YEARS HENCE." The widespread retreat on the industrial Labour leaders, but at the same time, it is quite contrary to what the mass of Labour supporters expected, and is not likely to encourage their adherence.

We must, he urges, have more co-operation from ALL sections of the progressive movement, including the I.P.O. and Communist Party round a policy fitting the present circumstances, and mutually agreed upon. It must be a policy without the idea of retreat, and must serve itself to ask for the return in which its several parts have already definitely expressed belief, and specifically for the abolition of private rights in property.

A good-tempered book, we conclude, which presents a case that should be thought over by everybody! B

## SHEFFIELD GUILDWOMEN'S JUBILEE RALLY.

The Sheffield District of the Women's Co-operative Guilds have arranged a jubilee demonstration in the form of a mass meeting, to be held in the Montgomery Hall on Tuesday, September 19th. Amongst the speakers will be Mr. Henson Barton, J.P. (national secretary), and Alderman Fred Marshall, J.P., the Lord Mayor-Elect of Sheffield. There will be musical items by the Sheffield Co-operative choirs and orchestra. Admission free.

# MRS. HELENA MITCHELL.

CANDIDATE FOR THE HILLSBOROUGH WARD.

## RECORD OF SERVICE FOR THE WOMEN WORKERS.

MRS. HELENA MITCHELL, who has been unanimously selected by the Hillsborough Co-operative Party as the Hillsborough Ward next November, has spent the whole of her adult life in the working-class movements. She recalls with interest her work as a canvasser for Alderman Barton at his first election campaign in Hillsborough, and, in an interview, said she hoped that Hillsborough would be kinder to her as a candidate than it was to her as a canvasser.

In the early days of the W.E.A. Mrs. Mitchell joined the tutorial class for a course of Economics under Edmond



MRS. HELENA MITCHELL.

Curtis. Political history appeared to be totally different from the orthodox outlook as given in the school books.

Later the Women's Suffrage movement claimed her attention, and she became keenly interested in the fight to secure political equality for women. The position of women in industry was also one that caused her early concern, and in order to gain experience of working conditions she secured a post in a cutlery warehouse and began to organise a trade union. Meeting Gertrude Tucker and Mary MacArthur, Mrs. Mitchell was induced to form a branch of the National Federation of Women Workers. This was commenced with thirteen members in Sheffield in 1910. In 1912, Miss MacArthur asked Mrs. Mitchell to speak in London on the question of the Health Insurance of women whose wages did not reach 20s. per week. A protest meeting was held at Trafalgar-square, and Mrs. Mitchell made her first attempt at a five minutes' speech—at that time she hoped it would be her last! A few weeks later, however, our candidate was asked to give up work in the factory, and took up a position on the staff of the National Federation of Women Workers. As a factory-hand, Mrs. Mitchell had secured 350 members in the State Insurance sec-

tion, and had been placed on the Sheffield Insurance Committee. Later she took responsibility for organising the whole of the Northern area in Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Derby, and as far as Whitehaven were visited in this capacity. She recalls, with interest, her work as a canvasser for Trade Boards in Leeds, and thousands were recruited within the moment during these years. Particulars of wages and hours were taken and tabulated for Susan Lawrence's and J. J. Mallon's use when urging for Trade Boards to be introduced to cover the sweated industries. Many of the industries mentioned above are now under the Trade Board regulations, and as a result of the work of Mrs. Mitchell and her colleagues during these strenuous times. When the war broke out women rushed into the munitions work, and the union was alarmed at the stamped-out 6 a.m., however, Mrs. Mitchell and her colleagues would be found at the works to give entailing women, urging them to take only the same pay as the men, and to be organised to protect their conditions whilst their husbands were away. Subsequently Mrs. Mitchell was appointed to the Sheffield Civic Relief Committee. She was appointed as an assessor on the Munitions Tribunal, and constantly fought the women's case in this capacity. On resigning as organiser she was appointed on the national executive of the union and subsequently a member of the Court of Referees.

Mrs. Mitchell is not new to political work; she has fought three strenuous fights in Labour Edges—a hopeless seat in a Neather point of view, but one in which the message of Labour has not to be blazoned by someone, and Mrs. Mitchell has enthusiastically carried out this work.

As a member of the co-operative movement, she joined as soon as she drew her first wage in the factory, and her membership has never ceased. Interest in the guild movement has claimed her these latter years and threatens to usurp her other interests. Mrs. Mitchell asserts that she cannot separate the interests of the three great democratic organisations in which she has worked: the Labour movement, the trade union movement, and the co-operative movement. She is at present secretary of the Sheffield Labour Women's Advisory Council, she is vice-president of the Abbeydale Women's Co-operative Guild, and a member of the District Committee.

Mrs. Mitchell comes to Hillsborough, therefore, with a splendid record of service for the people in general, and women in particular. There are too few in a Labour point of view on the Sheffield Hillsborough will have an opportunity of rectifying this next November by supporting this well-tried and active representative of democracy.

# FASHION PARADES

at "The Arcade," this month

BEGINNING on Wednesday, September 6th, charming full-figure Mannequins will parade in the Reception Hall, at 3 p.m. on the following days:

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# B.B.C. BOYCOTTS CO-OPERATION.

The British Broadcasting Corporation has absolutely tabooed references to the co-operative movement in its programmes. Although the movement represents well over six-and-a-half million organised consumers, who with their families must represent a considerable percentage of the possessors of wireless licenses, the B.B.C. has disregarded the co-operative movement.

Not only has the Corporation declined to "put on the air" the presidential addresses at the Co-operative Congress and at the Congress of the Co-operative Women's Guild, but any mention of a highly important economic system has been barred from talks on industrial and social questions.

The Co-operative Congress has shown disapproval at the treatment meted out to the movement by the B.B.C., and the Co-operative Union has approached the authorities on the matter without result. Historians, economists, and other lecturers have to neglect the co-operative movement in their subject-matter because private traders might be offended.

which is that of an unemployed South Wales miner. An extract of the memoir is reproduced here—

When I first became unemployed in 1926, the only relief I received was ten shillings from the parish, because at that time we were "on strike" and not unemployed. Nevertheless, we managed to keep going the local "co-op." But at the end of the lock-out in 1928 we were in debt to the co-operative to the extent of £20. I am glad we were cause by the co-operative, he-theres, we managed to keep going there and allowing my few shillings on purchases to accumulate I have been able gradually to clear the debt off.

Perhaps now that the B.B.C. has received from an entirely independent source a statement as to what the co-operative movement is doing to help the unemployed, the Corporation may be convinced that co-operation is something more than just another name for business, and that the movement is a great bulwark for the consumer, however unfortunate he may be.

Perhaps the B.B.C. will realise it has a duty to perform as a quasi-state body in enlightening the public about co-operative organisation, development, and ideals.

## WELSH MINER SPEAKS.

On August 2nd, "The Listeners," a weekly published by the British Broadcasting Corporation, printed a series of memoirs of the unemployed, among

# MUNICIPAL BANKING : A SUCCESS.

It is interesting to read the report of the Birmingham Municipal Bank for the year ending March 31st, 1933.

The volume of business done during the year was £1,793,354, an increase of £1,653,688 on the previous year.

The bulk of this is on deposit with the Corporation at call, so that the Corporation has the advantage of cheap money and credit.

Why should it not be possible with any municipality? But the Government have laid it down that in no case shall a municipality do its own banking unless it agrees that it pays no more interest to depositors than the private banks do, and lends its money to the Corporation at no less than the private banks. And even with these restrictions, it has only agreed to one municipality having the power to instal a bank.

And why? Not because municipal banks are not a success. In fact, as above stated, they are a brilliant success. It is just because they are a success that the Government refuses to allow them. Although the municipal banks have not got anything like the powers of the private ones, it is evident the private bankers are afraid of them. They have said for such a long time that finance is a matter which could not be

trusted to mere municipal councillors and middle class "expert" knowledge, that they are afraid of the people, knowing to do without them if they find out the truth.

It is hoped that the Birmingham Bank was founded under the régime of Mr. Neville Chamberlain, and that his supporters are a majority in the Birmingham Council. No doubt Mr. Neville is now separating the progressive impulse of his younger legs. He certainly set a good example.

## IS TRADE IMPROVING?

Our Sheffield paper had us that there is a distinct improvement in trade. But it does not seem to affect the workers. The cost of Public Assistance varies round about 25,000 a week. It varies round a sign of attention since April last.

No doubt some firms have received orders and others have lost them. It is orders and others have lost them. It is certainly a fact that in spite of so much money being spent there is a large amount of over-time worked in the city. The workers concerned are not to blame. They would be discharged if they could be. They would be discharged, though some plained to the management, though some of them have complained bitterly to myself and others.

# Mr. W. H. SLACK.

## LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR CROOKSMOOR.

Mr. W. H. Slack (secretary, Cutlery Union) has been selected as the Labour candidate for the Crooksmoor Ward. Mr. Slack has been a member of the trade union of which he is now secretary the whole of his adult life, and served on the executive, and as vice-president and president before he was appointed to the full-time position he now holds. As delegate to the Cutlery Council, which covers all the cutlery industry, and secretary of the Grinders' Joint Council, which deals primarily with industrial diseases, Mr. Slack has a valuable experience in representing the workers. Along with his



Mr. W. H. SLACK.

colleagues, he was responsible in no small measure for the establishment of a Trade Board in the cutlery industry. Having regard to the very scattered nature of the trade in Sheffield, it says much for Mr. Slack's efforts that he was able to collect a mass of statistics, and to calulate a vast amount of evidence which impressed the Government inspector upon whose recommendation the Trade Board was finally set up.

Mr. Slack has done a good deal of voluntary work in the city. He is a member of the Joint Hospital Council, and on the Finance, Convalescence, and Publicity and Propaganda committees of that useful organisation.

At present a member of the Juvenile Advisory Committee at the Labour Exchange, he has had a wide experience of at least the industrial needs of the people whose franchise he will seek next November.

Mr. Slack will make an ideal candidate for Crooksmoor Ward, as he was born in the ward and lived there for many years, attending the Crooksmoor Council School, under the headmastership of Alderman E. Sutcliffe, B.A. He is widely read on industrial and economic affairs, and has studied in the various classes of the Workers' Educational Association for nine years. He has a particular penchant for economics and political science.

Still a comparatively young man, he should go far in the political sphere, as he certainly has done in the industrial. An ardent co-operator, and treasurer for the Hillsborough Co-operative Party, he has worked incessantly for the more adequate representation of co-operators on local and national authorities. At our guilds and political section meetings, as well as during election campaigns, Mr. Slack has been in the thick of the educational and propaganda work of the movement.

Crooksmoor electors will have the privilege of hearing him in the very near future, and we have little doubt that Crooksmoor, the cockpit of election fights, will once more record a Labour victory by placing Mr. Slack on the Sheffield City Council.

When you have read this paper please pass it on.

# SOCIALIST LEAGUE FORUM.

FOLLOWING the success of the two Forum conferences organised by the Socialist League, Sheffield branch, in March and April, the League is arranging for a similar conference to be held in the Victoria Hall, on September 23rd, at 3 p.m.

The speaker (Mr. F. Henderson) is well known as the author of "The Case for Socialism," and "The Economic Consequences of Poverty Production."

His latest book, "The Foundations for the New Age of Plenty" (Collins, 3s. 6d.) is the title of the conference. In his book Mr. Henderson gives a critical analysis of the cause of the economic evil.

His lecture should be more enlightening even than his book, for he will be able to enlarge upon any point that seems open to misunderstanding.

The conference is to be held in the Upper Lecture Hall, Victoria Hall, Norfolk-street, at 3 p.m., September 23rd.

Tickets are 6d. each, or four for 2s. 6d. Applications for tickets, of which there are only a limited number, may be sent to Miss J. M. Thomas, 92, Middle-lane South, Rotherham; and Mr. P. Hargreaves, 16, Mansvers-road, Sheffield, 6 (conference secretary).

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