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OCTOBER, 1933.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION 30,000 COPIES.

MORE AND MORE STATE REGULATION OF TRADE.

TENDENCY TOWARD REVIVAL OF GUILD SYSTEM.

CO-OPERATION MUST PROTECT THE CONSUMER.

REPRINTED FROM THE "CO-OPERATIVE NEWS."

The Diarch: "We don't have anything to do with politics in this co-operative society."

The Inquirer: "That's very interesting. Does it mean you won't have to pay any of the new co-operative tax, that you pay no subsidy on the flour used in your bakery, and that you can pay dividend on National Health Insurance prescriptions?"

The Diarch: "Well, not exactly. We pay all those things—except the last."

The Inquirer: "Then you really mean you pay for politics and somebody else calls the tune?"

The Diarch: "Now look here, young man, no more of this Bohic nonsense."

And that ended the conversation. Imaginary, of course, but illustrative of an attitude that still exists among many co-operators—good co-operators, too, so far as spending goes. But very, very short-sighted. With all respect, they are the type that simply won't be convinced that the stable door should be closed until the horse is gone. They are a type, and again it is said with all respect, who menace the future stability and progress of the movement.

For it is abundantly clear that whatever co-operators do about politics, politics are going to have a great deal to do with co-operators. They always have, of course, for our Magna Charta, the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts—are political measures, and the C.W.S. came into existence only after a political battle away back in the 'sixties to change the law as it then stood.

PIONEERS AND POLITICS.

The Rochdale Pioneers were astute enough to see that the absence of politics in the sense of a definite Act of Parliament giving legal protection and status to co-operative bodies was one of the main causes of failure among the hundreds of societies that sprang up under the influence of Robert Owen and Dr. William King. The Pioneers secured some protection for their funds and some legal recognition of their existence by coming under the shelter of the Friendly Societies Act—political measures.

Politics, in fact, have influenced and conditioned the development of the co-operative movement from 1844 down to 1933.

Our diarch friends will argue, however, that down to 1917, the movement did very well without any direct participation in politics, that, in effect, we usually got what we wanted by going cap in hand to Liberals, Tories, or Labourists, and asking them to look after our interests. Roughly, that is correct, but the argument misses the essential point—that the whole trend of politics in their relation to business is changing under our eyes.

DIVIDING THE SPOILS.

In the nineteenth century the State kept the ring and laid down the rules, and business interests fought among themselves for the prize of popular support in the shape of trade.

If current legislation is any guide the twentieth century is going to see the State stepping into the ring, telling the combatants to shake hands, and it will see that the prize money is divided amongst them.

The State has laid down machinery to guarantee the farmer a minimum price for his milk, it has guaranteed the bus owner minimum fares, and made it almost impossible for new owners to enter the road traffic industry, by a whole series of quotas it is guaranteeing the home producer unrestricted opportunity to exploit the home consumer, and heaven only knows how

many more commodities are going to be regimented under the Agricultural Marketing Act, that misconceived child of a Labour Government.

We have the butchers now coming along and asking for legislative sanctions to make the butchering trade into a closed corporation in which, again, it would be almost impossible for a newcomer, co-operative society, or otherwise, to set up business.

The Minister of Agriculture has vast powers in regard to some commodities which enable him to determine how much and what grades shall be produced, and at what prices they shall be sold. Powers that Cromwell never dreamt of are now vested in the Minister so far as agricultural products are concerned.

In fact, as a recent speaker pointed out, it is not inconceivable with the development of marketing schemes and monopolistic disposal boards, the C.W.S. may be some day soon forbidden to take its own fruit from its own farms direct to its own preserve works and call it "no sale," but may have to pass the whole process through a State marketing board.

To put it briefly, we are moving back to the medieval guild system in which each trade was a closed corporation, rigidly exclusive of newcomers, and the State laid down itself or delegated to the guilds the right to fix prices.

Just as in foreign trade we are moving back into the old mercantile system.

STABILISING CAPITALISM.

Now all this regulation might be a very good thing if it was carried out under the auspices of a different kind of Government and with a different motive. But as things are its object is to stabilise capitalism.

The individual capitalist, be he farmer, coolowner, or omnibus owner, having made a glorious mess of his glorious right to do what he will with his own, the State is stepping in to help him out of the mess, put him on his

feet, and give him a new lease of life. Splendid, if you are a capitalist, but wrong and abhorrent if you are a co-operator and demand the unfettered right to compete capitalism out of existence.

For the new State paternalism is definitely designed to stabilise particular trades in the interests of those already in the trade, and that means a full stop to co-operative ideas of expansion in many directions.

Now, perhaps, it will be seen what is meant by the gentle gibe about not wanting to shut the door until the horse is gone. It is going to dawn on our non-political friends some bright morning that the "co-ops." have allowed themselves to be tied up in such a maze of restriction and regulation—all in the interests of private enterprise—that there are few avenues left for their expansion.

All this legislation is political. It is the political power of private enterprise that alone makes it possible. Surely, in the name of all the gods dear to co-operators, it is only common sense that we should seek to organise the political power of our six-and-a-half million members to see to it that their co-operative trading organisations are not hamstringed by regulation in the interests of capitalism?

Some of these new developments in marketing and control are infinitely more dangerous to the movement than the new co-operative tax. Given the unfettered right to expand we can defy the taxers to do their worst. But limit us, put us into a niche in system of regulated capitalism, and forbid us to leave that niche, and we are indeed in a perilous plight.

More co-operative members in Parliament, more on local councils, the use of our unrivalled propaganda possibilities to arrest the consumer—these are our only insurance against such a fate. We want more co-operative politics and not less.



Right Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER.

HILLSBOROUGH PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

The Right Hon.

A. V. ALEXANDER

will address meetings on

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th
as follows—

MALIN BRIDGE COUNCIL SCHOOL, Dykes Lane,
7-30 p.m.

WOODSIDE LANE COUNCIL SCHOOL, Neepsend,
8 p.m.

All electors cordially invited.



MRS. H. MITCHELL.
(Co-operative Candidate for Hillsborough Ward), who will speak at the Malin Bridge meeting.

TRADE UNIONISTS AND THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT.

REFERENCES are made, in a number of resolutions passed at the Trade Union Congress, held recently at Brighton, to the co-operative movement. Realising that the co-operative movement in this country is one of the very highest forms of democratic organisation, it is not surprising to find the Trade Union Congress passing a resolution condemning the Nazi régime in Germany, "which is a hindrance to disarmament and a source of discord between nations."

The resolution continues in the following terms:—

Congress declares that the closest possible alliance of the British Trade Union, Labour, and Co-operative movements is essential, and calls upon these movements throughout the country to reaffirm their faith in democratic principles and government; to secure united action against all forces which seek to usurp democracy in this country, and to destroy the freedom of the people for the purpose of establishing some form of dictatorship under which the unscrupulous use of the weapons of terrorism, violence, and intimidation will be directed to the destruction of democratic institutions.

Congress therefore urges all sections of the Trade Union, Labour, and Co-operative movements to continue in rallying to their organisations all potential membership in order to strengthen and solidify resistance to the forces of reaction and disruption, and in the event of any attempt to supersede democratic institutions to take all possible steps—including the formulation of plans for industrial action—to combat this menace, to secure effective organisation in every industry and occupation, and to bring about a united working-class movement in Britain and throughout the world.

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POVERTY STILL INCREASING.

THE GROWING FIGURES OF POOR RELIEF.

WHILE the Government is claiming credit for an improvement in the trade of the country, the Ministry of Health statement on Poor Relief tells a story of ever-increasing poverty among the people.

The Ministry's statement shows that on the last Saturday in June, 1931, there were 1,272,058 persons in receipt of Poor Relief in England and Wales. This was a decrease of 85,778 as compared with the figures for March, 1931, but an increase of 51,442 as compared with June, 1932.

In June, 1931, while the Labour Government was in office, the total was 956,930.

During the two years of "National" Government the number of persons in receipt of Poor Relief in England and Wales has increased by 305,128. The increase is mainly among the unemployed and their dependents who have been forced on to Public Assistance Committees by the Government's policy of depriving them of State benefit.

The average number engaged in some form of "ordinary" employment in receipt of Poor Relief in June, 1933 (including dependents), was 540,574. This was a decrease of 81,485 as compared with last March, but an increase of 61,525 as compared with June, 1932. In June, 1931, the number of such recipients of Poor Relief in England and Wales was 284,567. In the last two years the number of unemployed (with dependents) in receipt of Poor Relief has increased by 236,613.

TRADE REVIVAL.

NEWSPAPERS, economists, and industrialists are all speculating as to whether the trade revival is on the way. The unemployment figures of the Ministry of Labour show that the percentage of insured persons unemployed has fallen from 21.7 per cent. in January to 19.5 per cent. in July. The highest figure for the current year was 23.1 per cent. in February.

The economists have seen in the rise of prices the first hopes of the crisis waning, and look optimistically to the rise in cost of living and cost of food prices. The cost of living figures issued by the Ministry of Labour, showing the percentage increase over July, 1924, jumped a per cent. between June and July, from 36 per cent. to 38 per cent. The retail cost of food figures for the same months jumped from 24 per cent. above 1924 levels to 28 per cent. Another rise in prices will bring an end to the depression is a matter of argument for the economist and the financier. One thing is certain, however, and that is when prices rise the purchasing power of the consumers' wages become lessened. Such is the time for the consumer to take the full advantage of co-operative trading and of enjoying the benefits of co-operative surplus.

A LOT—TO YOU.

The "Daily Sketch" informs us that the King's younger sons receive £10,000—raised to £25,000 on marriage—a year.

It naively comments that "really, this is not as much as it seems." Five hundred pounds a week may not be much to Royalty, but it's a mighty little when they are taxed to provide it.

(Continued from previous column.)

meat, or cabbage, or potatoes, scarcer and dearer, and he will probably go down to fame as the Minister of agriculture two said before, and made an artificial famine in bacon at a time when the country was lamenting an overplus of the

ARTIFICIAL FAMINE.

STAPLE COMMODITY NOW A LUXURY.

PROTECTION MAKES SCARCITY AND HIGH PRICES.

BY E. TOPHAM.

THE disparity between the Protectionist theory and economic practice becomes clear. That ingenious schemer, Mr. Walter Elliot (Minister for Agriculture), who has laconically explained his Bacon Scheme to hand-picked auditors under the microscope, now finds himself before the microphone, and explains away the restrictions on bacon imports which are an integral part of the new England "fit for farmers to ramp it."

ARTIFICIAL FAMINE.

The plan was logical enough, for imports of bacon were to be subjected to quota restrictions so that the scarcity would yield higher prices to British farmers, who would, of course, be encouraged to increase the supplies of home-produced bacon at new remunerative rates. The pig population was to increase steadily, and the lammas population was to pay a familiar role in these Protectionist comedies.

So much for the theory. The practical results are disconcerting alike to the Minister, the farmers, and the consumers. According to plan, an artificial bacon "famine" was created by restricting the imports, and prices rose to well nigh double what they had been only some months ago. Unfortunately, however, the British farmer has not proved to plan, and has not secured any permanent advantage from the high prices. British pigs have not increased and multiplied according to plan. The principal benefactors have proved to be the foreign producers who have enjoyed the high price level created for them by the British Protectionist.

MAKING BACON A LUXURY.

Nor is that the extent of the mischief. The Minister of Agriculture, has proved, verbally and by deed, that he had little conception of the influence which the consumer can exert. According to the theory the patriotic British consumer would go on eating his morning bacon regardless of the price which his Government had thought fit to enforce. In point of fact, the restrictions on imports of bacon at world prices have seriously contracted the amount actually consumed.

Unemployed, half employed, or badly-paid workers can only afford bacon within certain low levels of prices, and they have alternatives when bacon ceases to be in the range of their effective demand. Housewives with longer purses have shown no eagerness to pay for farmers' subsidies.

Rarely has there been a better example of the power of the consumer to exert the economic pressure of reduced demand when sharp increases of price occur.

The Protectionist experiment—shall we call it misadventure?—has had the result of turning bacon from a staple food to a luxury.

Of course, one cannot expect Mr. Elliot to produce pigs "like rabbits from a hat," and pressing the greater access of fertility in British pigs, the Protectionists may have to cable frantically to the Danes to send more bacon in order to avoid weakening the British public from its traditional breakfast diet.

SCHEMES IN THE AIR.

That this comedy should be enacted at the time when Mr. Elliot is giving his long series of radio conversations on the Marketing Schemes is indeed deplorable, as it may lead listeners to reach the conclusion that the schemes on the air are very much in the air. However, we have not heard the last by any means of Mr. Elliot. While there are agricultural commodities which can be protected, subsidised, restricted, bolstered, planned or schemed, the present Minister of Agriculture will be ready at the behest of the National Farmers' Union to make

(Continued at foot of next column.)

TRADE UNIONISTS AND CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIONS

THE Co-operative Union's National Authority some months ago called the attention of co-operative societies to the importance of purchasing 100 per cent. co-operative productions. The recent imposition of unfair taxation upon the reserves of societies has been a stimulus to societies to boycott private trading organisations and combine, to buy co-operative goods and to supply co-operative goods to their members. It is interesting, therefore, to find that the Trade Union Congress, at its recent meeting in Brighton, passed the following resolution:—

This Congress urges trade unionists to do everything within their power to safeguard the interests of the trade union and co-operative movements, and the welfare of trade unionists generally, by becoming members of, and supporting, the co-operative society movement, and purchasing only those goods which are made by trade union labour; and in this connection to pay special regard to the products of the Co-operative Wholesale Societies and other co-operative establishments. As an employer of almost 100 per cent. trade union labour, the trade union movement has certain responsibilities towards the co-operative movement. Trade unionists by buying co-operative goods are thereby keeping co-operative factories and co-operative shops busy and employes working full-time at trade union wage rates.

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"OUR CIRCLE"

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THE CIRCUS AND THE LIONS.

That City Council spent quite a long time saving money at its September meeting. The citizens of Sheffield owe a debt of some £22,000,000, on which they have to pay interest, collected from them by means of rates, and in tram fares, electricity charges, &c.

The money was originally borrowed on interest was high, and now that money is "cheap" (that is, can be obtained at a lower rate of interest) a Conversion Loan of £2,000,000 was agreed upon.

Money is always being laded and teamed like this, so as to secure the utmost advantage possible. Undoubtedly the move is a sound one, but it has, of course, nothing but purely capitalist notions of finance behind it.

PROPERTY.

All that Labour and co-operation can say is that, WITHIN THE PROPERTY SYSTEM, it is certainly wise not to pay more than one is obliged for the use of money. But Labour and Co-operation stand for much more than that; they are in no way content until the property system goes altogether. Titles to property take from the mass what should properly be theirs in common; and titles to property, whether in land, capital, national or municipal loans, are alike means by which poverty abounds for the great bulk of people. That, however, is a matter for Parliament, but an occasional voice raised in the Council Chamber, stating the aims of Labour and Co-operation, would be all to the good.

But even within the property system there is still room for improvement in Corporation loans. For instance, if you have a spare £10 you cannot get 5 1/2 per cent. for the use of it by the Corporation—they will not accept less than 5 1/2. It is probably true that at least half the householders of Sheffield haven't got 50, never had 50 all at once, and never will get the chance to have it. A municipality, even under present conditions, has no right to make its secure investments obtainable only by those with at least 50. The Government, partly moved by arguments such as this, and partly with the desire to make in the last penny, issued its enormous War Loans in as low a denomination as 5; and the War Certificate section of it as low as 15s. 6d., which could be paid by instalments.

But under no circumstances should we forget that the socialisation of capital is our objective in the matter of finance.

SIXPENCE OFF THE RATES.

We had the very best of reasons for saying that Alderman Blanchard has had some straight talk from members of his own party for his wild promise

of a shilling off the rates. This committee chairman has told him a few plain home truths. Still, if he can defer the paying of some of the bills until Labour and Co-operation comes back money, it will look as if he had managed to do down all the schools and save something like 3s. 4d. on the rates?

PAKS.

The Graves trust of making the Parks Committee dizzy. It is embarrassed by the lavish gifts of parks and open spaces, and hasn't money enough to keep them adequately tidy and provide seating. Saving the rates and any accommodation! Councillor Fox was very rightly objected to the Parks Committee being looked upon as a "luxury committee." The fact is that a service provided mainly for the workers is considered by the "Progressives" as a "luxury."

THE CITY HALL ORGAN.

Alderman Rowleson made the speech of the meeting in stating case objecting to the payment of £63 to the architect by way of commission on the organ. The organist's position is being moved to suit the Musical Festival Committee; that removal and the famous lions gave rise to considerable difference of opinion which did not lead to unanimity. Still, whether the lions are moved or no does not violently matter; in any case, it is an affair we have to leave to the committee appointed. Commission on the value of the organ, however, is up another street! Councillor Skelton proposed that the organ should be "musical chairs" would be a better term, for he had something to say about the Saturday night concerts, and the organist's position in the hall.

ONCE MORE, THE SABBATH.

Alderman Jackson was still disturbed at the letting of the City Hall for a Smoke Abatement Conference on a Sunday. It is as well to make plain to all who agree with him that there is no intention of belittling such views. The Council is divided on other than party lines the question of Sunday games and the use of the City Hall on Sundays. But very certainly the legislation still applying to Sabbath Observance was devised when people and conditions of life were different. To-day, a large number of very excellent people consider that what is not fit to be done on Sunday shouldn't be done on a week-day either, and to prevent everybody from having a meeting in favour of smoke abating conference, some people object to bettering themselves, can only open the door eventually to a minority being forbidden to go to church! That would be a sad day—but Sundays have been far too dull, depressing, and even wasteful in the past for any prohibition of Sunday meetings for all worthy purposes.

TOWN HALL "SQUARE."

There are some people who think that any change is an improvement, and this appears to be the principle upon which the Progressive Party has acted with regard to traffic in Town Hall "Square." They criticised the earlier arrangement which probably they felt compelled to make some alteration. It was

not an ideal method before, of course; it is no better now. There can be no satisfactory plan until one-way traffic is instituted; in one direction from Moorhead via Norfolk-street to Fitzalan-square; in the other, up High-street, Fargate and Pinstone-street. At the moment, however, that is probably impossible, and will need certain alterations to Norfolk-street.

RATES COMMISSION.

Certain "home property" is "compounded" in rates, the effect being that the landlords become responsible for rates on such property, but are allowed 10 per cent. for collecting the amounts from tenants. The 10 per cent. amounts to £68,000 a year—and leaves tenants at the tender mercies of landlords! If it is worth while on the landlords' part to accept full responsibility for rates in return for £68,000 a year, a properly organised collection could be made DIRECT by the city. The old method of half-yearly lump-sum payments was bad, of course, but the landlord ought not to be the collector of rates. This method leaves real distress from sight, and hides the tenant wholly at the mercy of the landlord.

For collecting water rates, landlords get a further 10% a year.

ELECTRICITY.

The Electricity Committee promised an early report with regard to the possibility of a revised scale of charges. Councillor Gates had asked for a revision of the rates, which the committee are apparently agreed that there "as point in his request."

HILLSBOROUGH

CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTE.

SYLLABUS FOR SESSION 1933-34

This programme of activities in connection with the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute has just been circulated (price 2d.), and shows what can be accomplished by voluntary co-operative effort.

THE FELLOWSHIP.

The Fellowship held on Sunday mornings is to discuss subjects as varied as the Local Government of Sheffield from 1843 to the present time (over a series of meetings); the Basis of Exchange, Industrial Reform, Civic Reform, Disarmament, Labour and Leisure, &c. (from "Christianity and the Crisis"); "After Democracy" (by Mr. J. H. Biggs); will introduce the subjects.

Musical items have also been arranged.

SUNDAY EVENING MEETINGS.

At the Sunday evening meetings, Tom Williams, M.P., Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, William Leonard, M.P., Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., and a number of other well-known speakers are to address the gatherings. The Institute Choral Society and a number of choirs and orchestras are to provide the musical fare; the usual anthology of hymns will be used for communal singing.

THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY.

The Co-operative Party programme of meetings, which took place on Thursday evenings, contains such speakers as Mr. A. B. Griffiths (City Treasurer), Mr. J. P. Lamb (Chief Librarian), and a number of other well-known lecturers.

The Women's Guild also held up an interesting programme for their Monday afternoon meetings—Mr. W. Taberner (League of Nations Union), Councillor James Gill, Mrs. C. S. Ganley, J.P. (L.C.), &c. The meetings are detailed from October, 1933, to Whit-suntide, 1934.

The Women's Guild, which meets on Wednesday evenings, are to discuss such subjects as "Milk for School Children," "Co-operative Drive Amongst Trade Unionists," "Free Trade and the Consumer," "Social Services and What They Mean to Us," &c.

CO-OPERATIVE YOUTH.

The "Contracted" Circle—the Co-operative Youth Movement—have a branch at the Institute; meetings held on Friday evenings. An interesting series of lectures and debates is included.

Altogether, the booklet is an excellent record of assisted educational effort. Copies from the secretary, Mr. A. Ballard, 17, Bank-street, Sheffield. Price 1d.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH.

The South Yorkshire Area Conference of the Socialist League took place at Sheffield on September 15th, when Jean Thompson, on behalf of the National Council, dealt with the actual position of the League, the need for a new conception of democracy, and our determination to resist the rule of the National Meeson, of Edlington, was elected area secretary.

The outstanding event of the month has been the visit of Fred Henderson. On September 21st, he led a vastly interesting discussion with Marshall Hattersley and the Social Credit people, in which the fallacy of monetary reform without socialisation of production was clearly exposed.

There were delegates from many organisations at the Socialist Forum on the Saturday, at which Fred Henderson lectured on "Foundations of the World's New Age of Plenty." He stressed the need for clear thinking and a re-examination of fundamental Socialist principles if Socialist policy is to be brought up-to-date and clearly understood. He also emphasized the breakdown of capitalist methods of distribution, and paid a tribute to the work of the co-operative movement. It was an evening of lecture, which was thoroughly enjoyed and which raised the thought and inquiry into basic problems.

The membership of the branch is steadily increasing, but we feel sure there must be still many having the political outlook of the League who would like to join. We offer a hearty welcome to all interested to come to our meetings, which are held in the Trades and Labour Council room on the first and third Thursday of each month.

THE LATE

COUN. R. H. MINSHALL.

The cremation of the remains of our late friend, R. H. Minshall, took place on September 26th, last. The communal service being conducted by Lord Snell. There was a large gathering of friends and colleagues of the late R. H. Minshall, including the Lord Mayor, many representatives from the City Council, the Education Committee, and other bodies with which our late friend had been associated.

The service was purely of ethical tone, and was exceedingly impressive. Without music, without flowers, and without the habiliments of mourning, there was a fine ritual of idea. Lord Snell prefaced his address by quotations admirably selected, and read with extreme effectiveness.

"I have known Richard Harry Minshall for many years," said Lord Snell, "and greatly respected him. He was widely and usefully read, and he had a sound and cultured literary taste. He knew and felt the 'weight' of all this unintelligible blarney, but there was nothing blighted or sad about his outlook. His imagination was kept fresh and wholesome by his habit of better days were sure to come. But he had been social idealism was not a mere pious and indolent aspiration; it was something to be made real by wise planning and creative labour. He was a narrow pedant who believed that he alone had the way of life and truth; he was catholic in his sympathies, tolerant in his criticisms, and serene in his own beliefs."

"His friends are greatly indebted to the Misses Gillott for their loving care of him throughout his illness and during the last days of his life. He had been his devoted friends for twenty-five years. . . . And now, in the spirit of fellowship with the past and the future, the departed will rest, and those who have lived and laboured will take a last farewell of our dear friend."

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PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CANNOT HOUSE THE POOR

"PROGRESSIVES" MEAGRE PROGRAMME.

FLATS versus HOUSES.

BY COUNCILLOR W. G. ROBINSON.

Two last few months have witnessed one of the most intensive housing crusades since the immediate post-war battle-cry of "Houses Fit For Heroes." Some credit for this must be given for the educational work of the Co-operators and Labour Party in their effort to create a housing consciousness. There is no doubt that people have been awakened from their lethargy on this important social matter.

The Prince of Wales, speaking at the Guild Hall, London recently, is reported to have said:—

Slums are radiating centres of disease, ill-health, and discontent. How much loss of working time and sickness is due to slums? Let public opinion awaken. The great mass of the slum dwellings in this country are more than a century old. They have grown up around manufacturing plants during the industrial revolution, and are relics of a bygone idea of what was tolerable for working men.

AIRLESS COURTS.

During the summer on hot sunny days and airless nights, it is difficult to breathe in the centre of the industrial towns, and one's mind inevitably turns to the plight of the working class living in crowded slum areas. These people suffer probably more in the summer than in the winter, and a walk down any of the narrow streets in the poorer parts of the city will reveal the pathetic attempt of overcrowded humanity to breathe even the smoke-laden atmosphere of the city at midnight. The doorsteps are crowded, chairs are on the pavements, and children play in the gutters.

Flats will not solve this problem. Self-contained houses in airy estates only provide the real solution. On a hot day, or even when one can sit in the garden and get a breath of fresh air, whilst the

children play in the open spaces away from the danger of traffic; nothing less than this is good enough for the people.

MILLION REQUIRED.

Everybody in the public health services is aware of the necessity for the erection of at least a further million and the displacing of people from insanitary dwellings. If the State desires to bring up to a modern standard the living conditions of millions of its people and wipe out the shame of slum-dens and overcrowding, it must be prepared to pay for this desirable construction. The Chief and immediate concern of to-day is the provision of houses for a million families living in slums and overcrowded conditions, at as low a rent as possible.

TORY GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

The National Government, in their Housing Bill of 1931, abolished the Wheatley Act subsidy of £7 20s. per house per year, and are now limiting State assistance towards the abolition of slums. Locally, the present position is that we have received permission from the Ministry to build about 300 more houses on the Shiregreen Estate, whilst tenders are invited for 338 houses to complete that estate. So the future of thousands of workers in overcrowded conditions is not very bright.

If houses were built without the subsidy it would increase the rent of a standard house by approximately 3s. per week. How local authorities will overcome this latest hurdle erected by the Tory Government, it is difficult to say. Building costs cannot be reduced much further, and a reversion to the bad practice of building rows of houses in stereotyped streets, restricted in

structure, with no garden or amenities, would be disastrous.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUILDS ONLY FOR PROFIT.

One of the reasons given by the Government for determining the subsidies payable under the 1924 Act is the assumption that private enterprise can, and will, cater for the housing of the working class, thus freeing the organisation set up by most local authorities, and enabling them to deal specifically with the urgent work of slum clearance. Those of us who look upon the provision of housing accommodation of a decent standard for the lowest paid workers as a social service, and who realise that the property speculator is not a philanthropist, criticise the wisdom of the abolition of the subsidy by the Tory Government, particularly in the case of the smallest type of house. Private enterprise will always build to sell, but there is little likelihood of the speculator building houses of a decent standard to let at a rent of 6s. to 8s. per week.

FLATS versus HOUSES.

There has been a good deal of discussion recently on the comparative merits and costs of houses and flats. A decision has been taken by the Council to build thirty-seven flats and seven shops at Moorfields, and sixty-four flats in Lambert-street and Furnace Hill. There is an impression that flats are cheaper than the self-contained houses. Let us examine this position. The inclusive rent on the Wybourn and Woodthorpe Estates of a two-bedroom house is 8s. 12d., a three-bedroom house 10s. 5d. It is assumed that the inclusive rent for the Moorfields flats will be a few pence lower than the Wybourn Estate house owing to the income from the shops. Actually, therefore, flats are not cheaper than cottages.

Another point to consider is that land in the city is considerably dearer than on the outskirts, and that is a factor in fixing the rent.

HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING COUNCIL.

On the question of flats, the National Housing and Town Planning Council says:—

In but a few places in England and Wales outside London is there any tendency, or probably any need, to build tenements or flats. Cottage flats find favour in some quarters. Whatever type is employed, however, it does not affect the conclusions of the committee in respect of the area of the rooms and of the dwelling. Neither can it appreciably affect the calculations based upon the cost of the minimum standard cottage type. As a fact, given the same accommodation, block dwellings are found to cost relatively more than cottage dwellings, and while there are many objections,

the only gains which can be claimed are that by placing more dwellings in several stereotyped upon the site, a larger number of families can be accommodated. If for the purpose of rehousing on a cleared area, or for other reasons, flats or tenements are built, they should, in the opinion of the committee, save in exceptional cases, be limited to three storeys in height, and it is interesting to note that is the view which was taken generally by speakers of different countries who were present at the International Housing and Town Planning Congress held in Paris in 1928, in spite of the well-known system of high tenement buildings which are found on the Continent.

DEMAND FOR HOUSES.

The next fact to consider is public opinion. Do the people prefer flats or the self-contained houses? I am told that people living in Hollis Crest, Salford-street, and other districts, want to move to the Woodthorpe and Wybourn estates as soon as possible, and my own demand for self-contained houses on the estates. Admittedly there is a small minority who prefer flats in the city because they don't want to break away from their old surroundings and associations.

That is the reason for the proposed flats in the areas mentioned and also because the land belongs to the Corporation, and has been lying idle for some time. If there is, however, any further proposal to build more flats I assume that there will be some considerable opposition. I find that the British workers prefer the self-contained house as they are not used to living like the Continentals—on a communal basis, having a more individualistic and private outlook in their home life.

To sum up, I should say that there are approximately 24,000 houses in the slum areas ready for demolition. The policy of the "Progressive" Party is to build 2,000 houses per year for five years to cope with this huge demand. This will only touch the fringe of the problem. (Our proposal was at least 2,500 houses per year should be built, but this was turned down). In addition to this, several thousands of people are housed in rooms in decent property with two or three families in one house. It will require approximately 10,000 houses to cater for these unfortunate people.

It would appear that the Tory Government in abolishing the Wheatley Act subsidy definitely prohibited these people from living a decent civilized life.

It would be as well for our readers to ask the Conservative representatives of Sheffield to explain why the Wheatley Act subsidy was abolished.

THINGS THAT CONCERN US ALL.

PADDLING OUR OWN CANOE

We six million co-operators are able to look after ourselves in no uncertain way. We make our own shoes and clothes, mill our own flour, preserve our own fruit, and provide for ourselves generally. Thus we are able to maintain a high standard of production, for quality is not reduced to enable millionaire proprietors to carry off large profits.

We have over a hundred factories and workshops in England and Wales, operated entirely by and for co-operators. All the advantages of co-operative trading go to benefit the members.

What could be simpler, sounder, or safer? Is it not up to all of us to buy consistently the goods we make for ourselves with our own capital?

Mind Your Own Business by Buying C.W.S. Goods!



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

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GUIDE TO THE RENT ACTS 1920 — 1933

their effects on

TENANTS
SUB-TENANTS
LANDLORDS
MORTGAGEES

By H. RILEY

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PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CANNOT HOUSE THE POOR

"PROGRESSIVES" MEAGRE PROGRAMME.

FLATS VERSUS HOUSES.

BY COUNCILLOR W. G. ROBINSON.

THE last few months have witnessed one of the most intensive housing campaigns since the immediate post-war "Kettle-ry of 'Homes Fit For Heroes'". Some credit for this must be given for the educational work of the Co-operative and Labour Party in their effort to create a housing consciousness. There is no doubt that people have been awakened from their lethargy on this important social matter.

The Prince of Wales, speaking at the Guild Hall, London recently, is reported to have said:—

Slums are radiating centres of disease, ill-health, and discontent. How much loss of working time and sickness is due to slums? Let public opinion awaken. The great misery of the slum dwellings in this country are more than a century old. They have grown up around manufacturing plants during the industrial revolution, and are relics of a bygone idea of what was tolerable for working men.

AIRLESS COURTS.

During the summer on hot sunny days and misty nights, it is difficult to breathe in the centre of the industrial towns, and one's mind inevitably turns to the plight of the working class living in crowded slum areas. These people suffer probably more in the summer than in the winter, and a walk down any of the narrow streets in the poorer parts of the city will reveal the pathetic attempt of overcrowded humanity to breathe even the smoke-laden atmosphere of the city at eventide. The doorsteps are crowded, chairs are on the pavements, and children play in the gutters.

This will not solve the problem. Self-contained houses in airy estates only provide the real solution. On a hot day or evening when one can sit in the garden and get a breath of fresh air, whilst the

children play in the open spaces away from the danger of traffic; nothing less than this is good enough for the people.

MILLION REQUIRED.

Everybody in the public health service is aware of the necessity for the erection of at least a further million houses, due to normal requirements and the displacing of people from into sanitary dwellings. If the State desires to bring up to a modern standard the living conditions of millions of its people and wipe out the shame of slum-dens and overcrowding, it must be prepared to pay for this desirable consummation.

The chief and immediate concern of today is the provision of houses for a million families living in slums and overcrowded conditions, at as low a rent as possible.

TORY GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

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If houses were built without the subsidy it would increase the rent of a standard house by approximately 3s. per week. How local authorities will overcome this latest hurdle erected by a Tory Government, it is difficult to say. Building costs cannot be reduced much further, and a reversion to the bad pre-war practice of building rows of houses in stereotyped streets, restricted in

structure, with no garden or amenities, would be disastrous.

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One of the reasons given by the Government for determining the subsidies payable under the 1924 Act is the assumption that private enterprise can and will cater for the housing of the working class, thus freeing the organisation set up by most local authorities, and enabling them to deal specifically with the urgent work of slum clearance.

Those of us who look upon the provision of housing accommodation of a decent standard for the lowest paid workers as a social service, and who realise that the property speculator is not a philanthropist, criticise the wisdom of the abolition of the subsidy by the Tory Government, particularly in the case of the smallest type of house. Private enterprise will always build to sell, but there is little likelihood of the speculator building houses of a decent standard to let at a rent of 6s. to 8s. per week.

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Another point to consider is that land in the city is considerably dearer than on the outskirts, and that is a factor in fixing the rent.

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the only gains which can be claimed are that by placing more dwellings in several storeys upon the site, a larger number of families can be accommodated. If for the purpose of revenue present at three storeys in height, be limited to three storeys in height, and it is interesting to note that is the view which was taken generally by speakers of different countries who were present at the International Housing and Town Planning Congress held in Paris in 1928, in spite of the well-known system of high tenement buildings which are found on the Continent.

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To sum up, I should say that there are approximately 14,000 houses in the slum areas ready for demolition. The policy of the "Progressive" Party is to build 7,000 houses per year for five years to cope with this huge demand. This will only touch the fringe of the problem. (Our proposal was at least 2,500 houses per year should be built, but this was turned down). In addition to this, several thousands of people are housed in rooms in decant property with two or three families in one house. It will require approximately 20,000 houses to cater for these unfortunate people.

It would appear that the Tory Government in abolishing the Wheatley Act subsidy definitely prohibited these people from living a decent civilised life.

It would be as well for our readers to ask the Conservative representatives of Sheffield to explain why the Wheatley Act subsidy was abolished.

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GREAT OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED.

The co-operative movement is preparing for the second great round of the co-operative tax fight. The injustice which has been inflicted on co-operative societies and their members will not be forgotten. The struggle for the next round will be the constituencies of Members of Parliament who voted at any of the House of Commons divisions for the tax, or who, being present, refrained from voting.

Any representative in the House of Commons who thinks that co-operative members will forget or will be allowed to forget that a Parliament, mainly influenced by private interests, has placed a penalising tax on co-operative societies is under a sorry delusion.

PRELIMINARIES.

Already the division lists of voting on the co-operative tax question which is the result of the 1933 Finance Act have been issued to every co-operative society in the country, and members will be informed how their own M.P. voted. That is only a preliminary step.

From now until the next General Election co-operators will be reminded of the tax issue. They will be told how the co-operative tax affects them, and told why the new tax is unjust.

By the time the next General Election is due co-operative members will be absolutely informed of the facts, and the Parliamentarians who faulted in playing fair will be rejected. If co-operators do have been disloyal to them that the co-operative movement is not to be trifled with at the beckoning of private interests, the present attack on the movement will only be the beginning of more serious attacks in the future.

CO-OPERATION UNDER THE NAZI RULE.

BRITISH co-operators have been greatly concerned at the possible effects of the recent Nazi revolution on the German co-operative movement, which was up to quite recent times one of the most important of the European family of co-operators. The Executive Committee of the Co-operative Union has asked the International Co-operative Alliance to ascertain whether the German co-operative movement, as now constituted, is free to operate on true co-operative principles.

The Co-operative Union are also exploring the possibilities of sending a special co-operative delegation to investigate the situation of the German co-operative movement at first hand.

FOOTWEAR

FOR GENTS AND BOYS.

Holyoake
: Brand :

IS THE MOST RELIABLE

TRADE UNION STAMP No. 8

can be purchased from any
Co-operative Boot Department
in Sheffield.

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY THE

KETERING
CO-OPERATIVE
BOOT SOCIETY

HAYLOCK WORKS, KETERING.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Co-operative Party at Attercliffe held their usual monthly meeting at the Co-operative Institute, on September 22nd, when Mrs. Shelton gave a report of the week-end school held at Youlgate, where three lectures were given and discussed on the subject "Towards the Larger Co-operation." Other members who had also attended the school contributed to an interesting discussion.

The next meeting will be more in the nature of a rally of co-operative supporters, and will be held in the Co-operative Institute, Attercliffe Common, on Friday, October 27th. Councillors E. S. Nicholson, J. P. Director, Brightside and Cathrook Society, and the candidate for the Attercliffe Ward, will address the meeting. Commence sharp at 7.30 p.m., all co-operators cordially invited.

BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Divisional Co-operative Party, under the secretaryship of Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sirey-avenue, is holding a very strong individual membership, and is now the second largest Co-operative Party in Sheffield.

The next meeting will be held in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute, Bell Shiregreen-road, on Saturday, October 27th, at 7.15 p.m., when Councillor C. T. Richardson will be the principal speaker. The meeting will be followed by a social evening, to which there will be a charge of 3d each. All members and prospective members are given a cordial invitation.

BURNGREAVE.

The Burngreave Women's Section commenced their season with a very successful social on September 6th. On the 14th, through the courtesy of the superintendent (Mr. Hildreth), an interesting visit was paid to the Fairwood Cottage Homes. Councillor (Mrs.) A. Cumming, the Labour representative for Burngreave Ward, is now to address the women on the second Wednesday in the month to keep them in touch with the work of the City Council. Programme for October: 4th, report of Co-operative Party Political School; 11th, City Council report, Mrs. Cumming; 18th, Councillor, G. H. Rowlands, J.P., will be the speaker, and on the 27th, the usual monthly social.

Meetings are held in the Burngreave

Vestry Hall every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. Yealand, 25, Catherine-road.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party opened the season with a largely-attended concert and drama on September 17th. Councillor Gill, Mrs. H. Mitchell (Co-operative candidate for Hillsborough Ward) were present; an apology for non-attendance was received from Mr. W. Hobson, the Labour representative for Oxlorton. A very entertaining evening was spent under the presidency of the vice-chairman (Mr. Mitchell). On September 14th Mrs. Mitchell gave an interesting address at the usual weekly meeting, and on the 21st Councillor W. G. Robinson—always a favourite at Hillsborough—was the speaker. Mr. J. H. Bingham spoke on the 28th. Alderman A. Barton will address the members on October 5th, and for the rest of the month the election campaign will be in progress. All members cordially invited to take part in the work.

The Women's Section continues to increase its membership and attendance. On September 4th the tea and social was a great success. A concert, organised and given by members of the section, was very attractive and entertaining, proved as attractive and entertaining as any performance by professionals. On September 17th, Mr. Ballard (organiser) spoke on the subject of "Drama as a Factor in Democratic Education." 18th, Mr. F. Mansfield (agent for the Orthopaedic Hospital) gave an address on the subject of the magnificent work carried on by this recently received treatment at this hospital, of which he is the honorary president. 25th, an excursion by bus was arranged to the C.W.S. warehouse at Balloon-street, soap works at Irlam, and biscuit and sweet factory at Crumppall. About 100 members took part, and were received at Manchester by representatives of the Wholesale Society and conducted in parties round the factories. The evening was spent at Belle Vue. Programme for October: 2nd, social; 9th, Mr. W. Hobson will be the speaker; 16th, Mrs. H. Mitchell; 23rd and 30th, municipal election campaign.

NEEPSDEND.

The Neepsdend Party continue to hold well-attended meetings.

On September 6th there was a good attendance at the 6th there was a good attendance at the business meeting and a representative committee to cover the whole of the ward was made for Mr. W. Watkins, J.P., the 13th Alderman. Mr. Watkins, J.P., kept his audience keenly interested in many questions and many interesting discussions followed. On October 4th the Woodcroft Park meeting, supply the speaker, and on the 11th, the Council will be held in the Institute, Manners-street, at 8 p.m. The organisation for the election is well in hand, and Neepsdend is looking forward to another striking victory for Councillor (Mrs.) Spaight (Co-operative and Labour candidate).

The Women's Section meetings, which are held on Monday afternoons, have also been well attended during September and were reported upon in our paper, and were reported upon in our paper, and were reported upon in our paper. On September 26th, a social meeting will be held, and on the 9th October will be held, and Mrs. Spaight will be devoted to the rest of October with the exception of the district meeting, which will be held on a trip to Blackpool which has been arranged. The annual bull competition is in hand, particulars can be obtained from the secretary, Mrs. Watson, 125, Fowler-street.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Section of the Co-operative Party announced the 13th with a crowded audience, when business of the organisation was discussed. At this meeting the assistant secretary (Mr. W. H. Wood) tendered his resignation, as he was entering his 40th year, and his studies. Tribute was paid by the secretary and president to Mr. Wood's valuable assistance to the party, it being stated that he had set an example to the youth of the city and of the country in his voluntary service for the workers' movement. At the meeting on September 20th Mr. W. Stett was elected as assistant-secretary. Messrs. Fisher and Pashley, who were the delegates to the week-end school, gave an interesting report on the lectures. September 27th, a social evening, in conjunction with the Women's Section, who held a tea in the afternoon, proved a successful affair. Speakers are booked for the last three weeks in October, and old and new members are cordially invited to attend in readiness for the election campaign. The secretary asks us to remind all members to book October 23rd to November 1st in their diaries lest important matters should take up their time.

The Women's Section have secured the services of Mrs. F. Ward as speaker on October 4th, subject: "The Life of Joseph Baker." 11th, a speaker on India. 18th, business meeting; 25th, municipal election campaign. Secretary: Mrs. A. Allen, 163, Everingham-road.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section's monthly meeting was held in the Guild-room, Cemetery-road, on September 28th. Mr. G. W. Evison speaking on "Overproduction and Mis-distribution." The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 16th, and will be devoted to the subject of "India."

The Women's Section resumed their meetings on September 17th; most of the time was devoted to the ordinary business arrangements for the forthcoming session. 14th, the Co-operative Party monthly notes were read and discussed. On the 21st the report of the Sheffield Survey Committee on the milk supply of the city was considered. 28th, conference reports were given from the "President Roosevelt's Plans." Councillor Wells will address the meeting on October 9th.

The section will start in the election work in the Moor Ward, where Mr. W. Bancroft, the Co-operative and Labour candidate, is fighting. It will be renewed that Mr. Bancroft served on the City Council in the capacity of councillor and alderman for a number of years as the Co-operative and Labour representative of Neepsdend.

DINNER SUITS READY TO WEAR

Stocked in half-sizes. Cut and tailored in our own workrooms 63/-

BUSINESS WEAR

BLACK COATS AND VESTS, in the new single-breasted model.

Each garment our own production — 37/6 & 52/6

STRIPED TROUSERS — 10/6 to 21/-

DIVIDEND
last half-year
1/10
in the £

OVERCOATS

In newest Autumn styles, cloths, and shades —
to your own measure 42/-

SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED
"The Arcade" Cemetery Road

THE NATION'S MILK SUPPLY. CO-OPERATOR APPOINTED AS MANAGER.

The appointment of Mr. S. Foster (general manager, London Co-operative Society) as Chief Marketing Officer of the new Milk Marketing Board is a great compliment to the value of co-operative training. Mr. Foster has risen to a position of eminence with no aids other than his own native genius plus the business training of a co-operative career which commenced as junior clerk in a co-operative society, and has now reached its climax as principal officer of a great organisation which is to organise the marketing of the milk of the whole nation. Mr. Foster's career is indeed one of the great romances of democratic opportunity which the co-operative movement has opened up to young men who most likely would have otherwise little chance of finding appropriate fields for their energy and enterprise.

Mr. Foster started his co-operative career when he went straight from the council school to the Sittingbourne Co-operative Society, and later entered the service of the old Edmonton Society, whose secretary he became until the society was merged in the London Society. In the larger society he quickly found opportunities and tasks worthy of his talent as secretary and, following his appointment as general manager of the London Society, that society forged ahead in a remarkable fashion, and became the premier retail co-operative society in the world in membership and turnover.

THE SUPER-MILKMAN.

The magnificent co-operative milk service in the Metropolis has very largely been inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of Mr. Foster and his lieutenants.

In that work he acquired the specialist knowledge of the requirements of that important trade which will stand him in greater post now he has been called to the Super-Milkman. "The Nation's" one, for as the most recent report tells the largest single unit for milk distribution in England. Mr. Foster has played too. He was a prominent member of the Milk Trade Executive of the Co-operative Milk Trade Association, and one of its representatives on the Permanent Joint Milk Committee, and the ordinary way he would naturally have formed one of the quartette of co-operative representatives who are to represent the movement on the new body which will negotiate milk prices.

HELPING PRODUCERS TO CO-OPERATE.

To the producers' side of the milk industry Mr. Foster will bring to his gigantic task the spirit of co-operation which has all too often been lacking among agricultural producers. The many lessons which Mr. Foster has learnt and taught on the field of voluntary co-operation will be useful for the great experiment in compulsory co-operation on the producers' side of the industry.

Co-operators will be proud of the public testimony that has been made to the quality of the officials which the movement has produced and is producing, and the confidence reposed in one who knows the public requirements as well as the commercial technique of a great key service like milk marketing.

VERNON BARTLETT— CO-OPERATOR.

MR. VERNON BARTLETT, the eminent internationalist, in a wireless talk some weeks ago, said:—

Personally, I believe that this problem of giving the consumer the power to buy all that the producer wants to sell him is so urgent that a policy of drift is the most dangerous of all. Democracy will only fail if it tries to stand still, and a courageous policy could quite well adapt it to changed circumstances, without any of the violence which must go with dictatorship.

The co-operative movement represents over six-and-a-half million consumers. The co-operative movement is absolutely democratic, and it admittedly is "moving" when one considers the great co-operative developments of recent years. In the recent negotiations over the Marketing Schemes, the consumer who is after all the unit in the world of economics, has been defended by representatives of the co-operative movement.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE MEN'S GUILD.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE above Council are making a big drive for new members, part of which is a great mass meeting for men and women, to be held in Gleadless road guild-room, on October 23rd. Speaker: Mr. R. B. Thompson (vice-president, N.C.M.G.). Subject: "The Sphere and Influence of the Guild."

There are no decorations. But we hope all visitors will stay to tea and social. One shilling per head.

BILL AND MARY.

EDUCATION and employment are the questions of the hour in many homes. There are children for whom, despite high education rates, no place can be found in elementary schools. There are children being forced to travel long distances, often to makeshift schools, often to one of the 1,500 British boarding schools condemned as unfit for their noble purposes. That is the twin-problem of lack of planning by local authorities and of economy at the expense of the children, by the National Government.

WINTER OF DISCONTENT.

There are the young people, numbering nearly a million, who will leave school during the next twelve months. No work is available. Although during the last two years the number of potential recruits to industry fell to a minimum, there are over 200,000 boys and girls registered as unemployed. These now leaving school in the springtime of life face a winter of discontent. This, too, is a problem of economy; of economy which threatens the future happiness of your Bill and your Mary.

The problem is not eased by the tendency of many employers to dismiss Bill aged sixteen years, and replace him by Bill, aged fourteen years. It is aggravated by the tendency to attract young girls, say from South Wales to the Home Counties, and employ them at low wages, while boys of the same age walk the streets of Home Counties' towns in idleness.

Yet the solution is simple. It is to build more and better schools; to raise the school-leaving age; to pension off those older workers who, having served the community faithfully, have earned the rest which should accompany the waning of their labour power.

SHEFFIELD REPERTORY THEATRE.

OPENING Saturday, October 27th, the Sheffield Repertory Company will present "The Bread Winner" for seven nights. This is a comedy in Somerset Maugham's best vein—a cynical commentary on modern life, written with skilled dramatic touch, and brilliant, if bitter wit.

"Gallows Glorious," by Ronald Gow, opening for one week on October 27th, is, to our regret, Neil Porter's last production for the company. Based on the life and death of John Brown, the American hero of the slave trade agitation, famous in the marching song, John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave. But his soul goes marching on, it was very recently produced in London, and is now being given for the first time in Sheffield.

LADIES', GIRLS', AND BOYS' FOOTWEAR.

Sperope Brand :

MADE UNDER TRADE
UNION CONDITIONS.
STAMP No. 12.

STOCKED BY ALL CO-OPERATIVE
BOOT DEPARTMENTS IN SHEFFIELD.

Although Wool Prices are hardening,
there will be

No Increase in Price

of our Woollen Underwear.

ADVANCES HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED AND AMPLY PROVIDED FOR.

These Prices are practically pre-war ones.

LADIES' CREAM PURE WOOL COMBS. - 4/6, 5/11, 7/6, 10/11
Winter-weights in all styles.

Special LADIES' NATURAL COMBS. - - - 4/6
Pure wool, V neck, short shawl, open front, long leg.

We have a large range of KNICKERS in Wool and Wool Mixtures in the New Season's Shades

GENTS' VESTS and PANTS—
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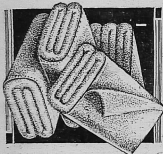
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