



The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



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PLANNING FOR SHEFFIELD'S FUTURE MORE AND BETTER SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE THE POOR PAY TOO MUCH : THE RICH PAY TOO LITTLE PRESENT FUTURE

As the City Council in October, Sullist's Budget came under consideration, and was by far the most important matter dealt with. It is true that a petition had been presented on behalf of people who desired the Tinley and Becclesfield Golf Courses to be open for playing on Sundays? They met with a refusal, however; but we shall no doubt hear from them again.

Fortunately, the number of players disappointed (about a thousand), is falling compared to the population of Sheffield. And at least half the population of Sheffield can't afford to play golf, even on the Corporation Courses!

THE BUDGET.

The Budget is another matter. We all have to do our share towards meeting it—even if we can't afford a pack of playing-cards! Alderman Blauschard was as bland as ever, pleased that money was "cheaper" and was "in the position of lowering that trade" was "definitely on the up-grade." Finally, he knew "that we should be relieved of a substantial part of our burden"—by which he referred to the Government's promised assistance in connection with the able-bodied unemployed. The relief will have to be substantial if it is to get us out of the hole that Alderman Blauschard has dug for us! If he has not yet heard, he had better be told that the Government has passed a word to the Tories that they are not to promise too much in the election campaign for November 1st.

MONEY IS CHEAPER.

Money is certainly "cheaper"—that is, we pay less interest for the loan of it, but even now, we pay £3 7s. a year for each hundred pounds borrowed, and this by no means satisfies the Labour and Co-operative Parties. The unemployed and the poor are still providing incomes to the lenders for doing nothing at all.

Nobody else but Alderman Blauschard is "in the position of knowing now what is" definitely on the up-grade." All we do know is, that it is somewhat better at the moment, though all the signs are against the improvement being maintained. It is much more likely to be a mere fluctuation; it might even be the apparent improvement noticed in some patients which occurs just before they expire!

SHEFFIELD'S GENERAL RATE FUND EXPENDITURE

| | 1932-33 | 1931-32 | 1930-31 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| City Hall | 28,349 | 30,597 | 31,216 |
| Education | 492,229 | 79,555 | 85,331 |
| Estates | 50,381 | 95,331 | 107,766 |
| Finance and City Architects | 107,766 | 448,312 | 389,867 |
| Health | 359,883 | 40,228 | 42,078 |
| Highways and Sewage | 42,078 | 45,301 | 51,366 |
| Libraries, Museums, and Art Galleries | 51,366 | 694,000 | 18,235 |
| Parks and Burial Grounds | 18,235 | 12,380 | 212,563 |
| Public Assistance | 212,563 | 209,712 | 8,910 |
| Rating Authority | 8,910 | 12,743 | |
| Watch | | | |
| Abattoirs | | | |
| Total | £2,812,472 | £2,732,143 | |

THE "BURDEN"

And now for the "relief" of our "burden", of which he was assured. The actual expenditure of the several Corporation departments is given below for the year ending March 31st last—in the first column. Alongside, in the second column, is Alderman Blauschard's estimate for this year (on which the reduced rate is based to end on March 31st next).

The combined Labour and Co-operative forces (who went out of power on November 1st, 1932) were responsible for fixing the amount of the rate in that year. By reason of the tremendous increase in the cost of Public Assistance, which arose during the year through the Government's action, there was a deficit of 499,000, which showed normally have been met by rates such as paid this year. Alderman Blauschard has allowed it to continue—though we shall have to pay something or other.

BAD ESTIMATES.

Apart from that, however, he has grossly under-estimated the cost of Public Assistance. He assumes that the cost will be £36,478 less than in the previous year. On the other hand, it will certainly be more.

Out-relief alone accounts for more than half of Public Assistance expenditure, and is now £90,000 more than last year to the same date. So far as can be at the moment say, it will be about £98,000 more for the whole year.

Bringing these deficits together, we have—

| | |
|---|----------|
| Amount short-raised in previous year | £99,000 |
| Amount required to cover deficit in Public Assistance | £86,478 |
| estimate £36,478 plus £98,000 | £134,478 |
| | £224,478 |

So far as this year's income is concerned, it now depends on what part of this "burden" the Government will relieve Alderman Blauschard—and the ratpayers. There is not the slightest hope that the Government will meet this entire loss, but has Alderman Blauschard any intention of meeting part of it by any actual reduction in Public Assistance expenditure?

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURE

| | 1932-33 | 1931-32 | 1930-31 |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Unemployed | 40,228 | 42,078 | 45,301 |
| Old People | 42,078 | 45,301 | 51,366 |
| Invalids | 45,301 | 51,366 | 694,000 |
| Other | 51,366 | 694,000 | 18,235 |
| Total | 182,380 | 209,712 | 8,910 |

On another page will be found the proposals of Labour and Co-operation with regard to future policy. Some of these proposals are immediately practicable; those will be proceeded with at once, when the Labour and Co-operative Parties are in power in the Council. We are not content, however, to achieve small improvements within the general framework of an exploiting capitalism, and shall work patiently and consistently towards the common ownership of land and all forms of capital except such as are of purely personal nature, and a fair distribution of the National Income. The effective progress to such a conclusion is, of course, by National rather than by Local Authority action; meaning, a Local Authority may help towards that end by forming a substantial body of opinion in favour of it.

We can also popularise, with a view to obtaining powers, the need for very considerable improvements in the raising of local finance. Our rating system is antiquated and unjust. Even so pronounced a Liberal as E. D. Simon (Manchester), formerly chairman of the Manchester Finance Committee, has pointed out the need for exploring the possibility of some form of local income tax, either additional to a lower rate, or entirely to replace rating.—(See "A City Council from Within"—and "Progressive" Councillors can consult this at the Town Hall, since there is a copy in the library there.)—He points out that while income and surtax are graded so as to have the higher percentages on the higher incomes; rates are at their highest percentages on the lower incomes.

The practicability of a local income tax is admitted by the Borough Accountant of Croydon ("Municipal Assets and Finance" who also points out that "a local income tax is an endeavour to fix the liability for rates according to the ability to pay.")

THE HOUSEHOLDERS' SALVATION.

At present, the unemployed man on the dole has to pay the same rates as the man who lives next door who is working overtime. This is not only unjust; it is sheer nonsense! Men on short time have to contribute as much as men in regular work in the better-paid industries. There are hundreds of "black-coated" workers in Sheffield whose salaries have been reduced by one-third and even in some cases by one-half—but they have the same rates to pay as before!

The prime fault is, that we charge the householder according to the annual value of the premises he occupies, and not according to his capacity to pay.

This is a direct penalising of those who desire rather larger, better-equipped houses, and who wish to live in rather nice districts, since they will have to pay more rates because they will pay more rent! It penalises trade unions since, say, the joiner and his wife and three children will have no more total

income from which to pay rates than will a joiner and his wife alone—though the latter need a smaller house and can, therefore, escape with less rates!

One of the worst examples we have had in Sheffield was that of a millionaire who lived in a rambling old-fashioned house in a low-rated area, and who thereby paid no more rates than many a man whose income was one-fifth part of the millionaire's! Thousands of shopkeepers pay more for local expenses than did that millionaire!

TRADERS' JUSTICE.

The shopkeepers of the city are badly hit in these hard times, and many of them are making losses. But their rates are no less on that account! Tradespeople's premises are notoriously heavily rated, the more so as they improve their premises. Their rates are not only high, but they are also increasing; while a host of lawyers, accountants, bookmakers, and others who require much lower-rated premises, may make incomes of thousands a year! Known instances could be given, but surely the fact is sufficiently obvious.

There are two things we must drive home about our City finance:

- (1) We do not spend nearly enough on the improvement of the city and the necessary social services, and
- (2) At the present time, THE POOR PAY TOO MUCH AND THE RICH TOO LITTLE by reason of the rating system.

Definitely, these two points will have the attention of the Labour and Co-operative councillors, and agitation be set afoot to secure a full inquiry into the possibility of some form of local income tax, and to consider the relative advantages of a through-going tax on land values for local purposes. Both these forms of taxation are widely used abroad, where our rating system is all but unknown!

Finally, the Labour and Co-operative Parties propose to take steps to secure the assistance of other municipalities in pressing upon Parliament the need for greater local powers.

Cities like Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, and Birmingham can make no development, however necessary, without the consent of Parliament. In fact, many policies in England are the most Parliament-ridden in the world. There has never been a finer expression of the idea of citizenship expressed in service than there was in the old City-States of Ancient Greece, and we shall strive for the recapturing of that same spirit with appropriate modern forms of expression. Our city must be a body of men and women co-operating in the common interest, and not a mere gathering of poor, middle class, and well-to-do all engaged in a struggle that, at best, makes no considerable social improvement except over long periods of time.

It is better not to "wait till things improve," but to start improving them!

UNITY ESSENTIAL.

A CALL TO THE WORKERS.

By COUNCILLOR W. C. ROBINSON.

The present capitalist system is decaying. Evidences of its decay are daily multiplying. All the chief economic problems are forced to confess that their efforts have failed, and that they can see nothing but chaos ahead.

All who have knowledge of affairs must realize that we are living at the close of one great economic system and the dawn of another.

We need to be determined and cleared if we are to play an intelligent part in planning the future.

A DEMOCRATIC TRINITY.

To-day circumstances will not permit of leisure. No worker, with any experience of the working-class movement, can but be aware of its limitations, and in our way, do whatever we can to effect changes. We should love our movement—every phase of it—with the undying affection and loyalty of those who have given their all to bring it into being, and to build it to its present size and strength. Who can measure what trade unionism, co-operation, and the Labour Party have cost in sacrifice and effort? Roughly-learn the movement is; unlearned were our pioneers—unknown they are in an infinite number of cases—but they gave to the movement of their lives.

The trade unions, co-operation, and the Labour Party, were germinated in that antagonism which is rooted in capitalist society. The workers, in the turmoil which followed the industrial revolution, were simply compelled to organise as a means of defence against the industrialists, &c.

But for these three units of the workers' movement during the past century, and the manner in which they waged off the increasing attacks on wages, hours of labour, and working conditions—and the co-operative movement fighting on the consumers' side—the workers would, in the opinion of a wise prophet than they are at present.

THE TRADE UNION SHEILD.

Trade unionism has been the great shield of the workers through the period of depression. Despite its shortcomings, the good it has accomplished is incalculable. Generation after generation of workers have benefited thereby. Even now, in these times of unprece-dented depression, the trade unions are doing by day doing all they can to withstand the constant attempts to cut wages and worsen conditions. Trade unions are primarily defensive organisations. Their power to effect material betterment is so largely dependent on the state of trade. Their objectives in the main are to secure higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions. These objectives are relatively easy of accomplishment when trade is good; but one has only to understand the depth and dimensions of the industrial depression to realise the stuporous difficulties of trade unionism in present circumstances.

It is obvious that never were negotiators so skilled in presenting their case, so adroit in the use of fact and argument, and so urgent in making demands, as the leaders of the unions, the co-operative, and Labour movements of to-day.

CONCERN STONES OF COMMONWEALTH.

The trade unions are destined to be one of the two great foundation stones of the Co-operative Commonwealth. The co-operatives are destined to be the pillars. That is certain if we are to judge by Russian experience.

The attacks of the powers that be, particularly through the "National Government, on our wages and living standards, on our social services, on our organisations—trade unions, co-operatives (as witness the special tax levied upon them) and political, have compelled the mass unity of the workers. The inevitable further attacks make it absolutely necessary for this—this complete solidarity—to be an accomplished fact.

LABOUR AND THE RATES.

A REPLY TO TORY MISREPRESENTATIONS.

In every municipal election campaign since the Labour Party began to secure control on Local Councils, the Tory Party has tried to frighten the electors with the bogey of "Socialist extravagance." By misrepresenting the facts about rates in Labour-controlled boroughs, Labour opponents convey the impression that Labour rule means higher rates.

"This bogey is again being used. 'Rates in districts controlled by Socialists are invariably high,' says a Tory Party publication, which goes on to quote West Ham and Rotherham as typical examples of 'Socialist extravagance.'"

Here are the facts about those two Socialistic Councils. The Labour Party in West Ham secured a majority on the Council in November, 1934.

The rate in West Ham for the financial year 1934-25, under anti-Labour control, was 2s. 6d. in the pound.

For the year 1932-33, under Labour rule, West Ham's rate is 1s. 8d. in the pound.

The Labour Party secured a majority in Rotherham in 1929. Rotherham's rate for 1927-28, under anti-Labour rule, was 19s. 8d. in the pound.

For the year 1927-28, under anti-Labour rule, was 22s. 8d. in the pound.

The Labour Party has been in a majority since 1929, and the rate for 1932-33 is 17s. in the pound.

Other instances can be quoted of Labour Councils reducing the rates by eliminating waste and securing greater efficiency.

In Mansfield, where a Labour majority was elected in 1927, the existing rate is 12s. 2d. in the pound.

For the year 1927-28, under anti-Labour rule, Mansfield's rate was 16s. in the pound.

East Ham's rate in 1927-29, under anti-Labour rule, was 22s. 8d. in the pound.

The Labour Party has been in a majority since 1929, and the rate for 1932-33 is 17s. in the pound.

These facts show how utterly unscrupulous is the Tory misrepresentation in the quotation of the present rate figures without a reference to the position before Labour secured control.

WHY RATES ARE HIGH IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

The tactics of the anti-Labour forces are all the more to be condemned in view of the fact that the reason why rates are high in industrial areas is the heavy burden of Poor Relief borne by these areas as a result of the "National Government's policy of throwing the unemployed on to the rates. The Tory publication cites Merthyr Tydfil as a Labour-controlled town where the rates are high.

But no mention is made of the fact that in Merthyr Tydfil 1,058 per 10,000 of the population are in receipt of Poor Relief, as compared with an average of 316 per 10,000 in the country as a whole.

The Labour Party does not defend the present rating system, which is unfair in many respects. Neither does the Labour Party stand for "extravagance" and high rates. The Labour Party stands for getting the best value for every penny spent; and the records of Labour-controlled Councils prove that the welfare of the local community is Labour's first concern.

ALD. BLANCHARD WITH THE PRIMROSE DAMES.

It is a striking fact that when a leader of the Tory Progressive Party wants to criticise the Labour Party he puts his story across a meeting of women. Perhaps they do not question, and there is no doubt a greater certainty of a good reception.

The local Press records a recent appearance.

"He described how the municipal finances had been cleared up and put on a sound business footing since last November. This year, in interest alone on the rate account, they had saved £18,000 by reason of cheaper money, in addition to which they had doubled that amount on the trading departments, effecting a total saving of well over £50,000. (Applause.)"

That applause of the Primrose dames evidently threw him out of his balance. He forgot to point out that the Labour Party had produced this cheaper money for him by giving notice to existing mortgages and introducing cheaper mortgages in their places before he took charge.

No doubt his blushing embarrassment stopped him saying that his party raised £2,000,000 at 92 at 5 1/2 per cent. in 1912, which is equal to over 61 per cent., and

Vote Labour on November 1st.

means that the city received £1,800,000 and has since paid £1,350,000 (including the current year) in interest and still owes the £2,000,000. That party pledged the city to pay this until 1934; and if not stung into it would have replaced at 34 per cent. saving 600,000 per annum, or equal to a 6d. rate.

Alderman Blanchard also forgot to mention that the Sheffield Bill, which Labour introduced, gave him equal to £20,000 additional income tax relief this year.

SLUMS.

Whilst under this magic spell the Alderman told them another: "In six months we have actually doubled the number of slum clearance schemes that they had in the last twelve months they were in, and our programme this year for slum clearance is equal to two years of the Socialists' programme. (Applause.)"

Apparently this applause again put him off, or he might have told them with accuracy that the Act under which slum clearances were now being developed was the Labour scheme known as the Greenwold Slum Clearance Act, which came into operation towards the end of 1930.

He might then have followed on to tell them that it was not until October, 1931, that authority for the 524 houses scheme was given by the Ministry; and by November, 1932, other schemes for the clearance of over 400 houses were given by the Ministry, and authority was given in March of this year to proceed with them.

He might have told the ladies, when the applause had subsided, that all the slum clearance houses that have been provided in the Labour scheme and budget of last year, and that no houses had been erected this year from the financial provision that had been made.

NO CLEAR SWEEP.

Further, he should have said that the Ministry of Health, during this year, had asked the city to submit a scheme to clear the slums in five years, and that he successfully resisted Labour's amendment to provide at least 1,500 new houses per annum for slum clearance purposes, and that the Ministry of Health had demanded an explanation for the inadequacy of the Progressive scheme.

He could have given them information as to the influence of the Property Owners' Association in this regard, but that he successfully resisted their knowledge about that and it would have been of no interest to them.

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PROMINENT CO-OPERATORS

ATTERCLIFFE WARD



Coun. E. S. NICHOLSON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR E. S. NICHOLSON, J.P., has represented Attercliffe in the Council for the last nine years, and the only people who have reason to regret it are those representing private and vested interests, for this staunch co-operator has no room for those who would exploit a public service for private ends.

As chairman of the Establishment Committee responsible for salaries, wages, hours of work, and conditions of labour, he also presided over the Investigations Sub-Committee responsible for seeing that the fair wages clause in Corporation contracts is complied with. Practical experience of industrial conditions enabled him to deal effectively with any attempted evasion.

Member of the Brightside and Carbrook Society's board of management for many years, he combines business experience with a high idealism of public service.

Attercliffe electors must not get agitated by the fact of a first-class representative. The only way for the workers of Attercliffe to present "a united front" on November 1st is to vote for Nicholson.

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DARNALL WARD



Coun. J. WHITTINGTON.

COUNCILLOR J. WHITTINGTON (Buller Makers' Union) has represented Darnall for seven years, in succession to Alderman Humberstone. Vice-president of the Sheffield Trades and Labour Council; member of the Joint Hospitals Committee and Allowments for the Unemployed; he served on the Court of Referees, and underpins the needs of the workers in this period of capitalist failure and collapse. On the Electric Supply, Water Works, Establishment, and Parks Committees he has not only a splendid record of attendances, but an experience that has served the city in good stead.

Councillor Whittington need not detail his stewardship during the present campaign, for he has kept his people well informed of their own civic business by monthly reports in the Darnall areas, and constant attention to the individual needs of his constituents.

A co-operator for the whole of his adult life, he is fully conscious that a system of production for profit rather than for use. This co-operative philosophy is well expressed in his civic policy, which is to control the government of the city in such a way as to benefit the whole rather than a selected few of the citizens.

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DARNALL WARD BY-ELECTION



MR. J. AYRE.

The authorities have wisely decided to run the by-election, to fill the vacancy created by the lamented death of the late Councillor R. H. Minshall, on the same day as the general municipal election—November 1st.

Mr. James Ayre, who has been chosen as the Labour candidate, has served the co-operative and trade union movements for many years past. A strong believer in the workers' fitness to govern, he nevertheless believes in preparation and training for public office. He has therefore attached himself to the guild movement, to the Workers' Educational Association, and to the Co-operative Party's class for candidates and

"By their fruits ye shall know them." Read

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speakers. Familiar with the workers' economic and political position, he has never sought public office, but has always been willing to serve the people. His choice to fill the vacancy created in Darnall is a popular one, particularly amongst co-operators, who are familiar with his quiet but constructive statements at the quarterly meetings of the Brightside and Carbrook Society.

A loyal member of that trinity of democracy—co-operation, trade unionism, and Labour—he will make a fitting colleague to the other Darnall representatives—Councillors Dimberline and Whittington.

Darnall electors should remember on this occasion that they have two votes. Both should be given to the democratic candidates—Ayre and Whittington.

HILLSBOROUGH WARD



MRS. H. MITCHELL.

MRS. HELENA MITCHELL, the popular choice of the Hillsborough Co-operative and Labour Party, is going to create a record in this ward, which has not yet returned a Labour representative to the City Council in its present constitution.

A fighter on behalf of the women workers in industry; a pioneer in the women's suffrage movement; an active trade union organizer; an active co-operative guild member; secretary of the Labour Women's Advisory Council, and a housewife and mother, Mrs. Mitchell would fulfil a real need on the Sheffield City Council. The Hospitals Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare, the School Medical Service; and a number of other humane services are pre-eminently suited for administration by women with experience amongst the workers and sympathies with their difficulties.

Mrs. Mitchell served on the Sheffield Civic Relief Committee, and was an assessor on the Municipal Tribunal during the war. She has also served on the Court of Referees, and knows the problems with which the housewife is faced in these days of industrial depression.

There are hundreds of new electors in the Hillsborough Ward who have reason to thank the Labour Party for the increased amenities on the housing estate at Wisewood. The elevation and general planning of that estate are a credit to the city. The provision of an excellent school complete with every modern equipment can also be laid to the credit of the Labour Party. November 1st will give an opportunity to electors to show their appreciation of good work done by the election of a woman whose whole life has been spent in the service of the people. Make no mistake this time. Mrs. Mitchell for Hillsborough.

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THE FIGHT

MOOR WARD



MR. W. BANCROFT.

WALTER BANCROFT (ex-older-man), forty years a co-operator. Many years secretary of the Railwaymen's Widows and Orphans' Fund, and secretary of the Railway Privilege Ticket movement. Forty years a fighter in the railway workers' cause.

Twelve years on the City Council, Chairman of the Improvements Committee which helped to make Sheffield more like the city of our ideals. Chairman of School Medical Service, which position he honoured by a devotion and attention to detail that called forth the admiration of all parties on the Education Committee.

Residents in the Moor Ward are fortunate in the opportunity of securing a representative with such a record of service in the workers' interest. Every worker by hand or brain should give this fearless champion his or her vote on November 25th.

NEEPSEND WARD



COUN. (MRS.) A. SPEIGHT.

COUNCILLOR (MRS.) SPEIGHT, one of Neepsend's trio whose services invariably receive a big majority endorsement at a mere formal appearance before the electors, for her election is a foregone conclusion.

Neepsend has reason to revere its representatives elected after election for two main considerations: (1) That by monthly meetings in Southey and Neepsend the electors are kept on a par with the city's business. (2) Councilors subject to questions and criticism give a constant record of their work, and any little difficulty that may crop up is settled forthwith, so that there are no accumulations of problems to complicate an election issue.

Mrs. Speight will be retained, but electors should see to it that the lump-sum majority given for Councillor Stokes last year is once more repeated—that is, if our opponents should venture another fight. They would be well-advised to save their time and money.

OWLERTON WARD



MR. W. IBBOTSON.

WALTER IBBOTSON, a man of the people. Organising secretary of Amalgamated Film Trades Union, a real Sheffield blade. Seven-and-a-half years on the Guardians and City Council. Has made the aged and infirm, the sick and unemployed, his special care. Humane treatment of the needy is the primary inspiration of all his public work. No man is more familiar with the Unemployment Acts and the anomalies therein than Walter Ibbotson.

Owlerton found him a devoted servant. He attended to every need of the Ward and its people with meticulous care. Co-operators who support him will be giving their vote to a loyal member of their own organisation.

There should be no doubt about him defeating the present Councillor, who cannot claim anything like the public service of Walter Ibbotson, the man for Owlerton.

WALKLEY WARD



COUN. A. LAING, J.P.

COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER LAING, always a sturdy champion of the workers, having associated with such men as Wardley, Tom Shaw, Uttley, and the other pioneers of Labour representation in Sheffield. A long experience in the Friendly Society and co-operative movement; popular president of the Sheffield and Eccleall Co-operative Society, with over £1,000,000 trade per annum.

His services on the Estates, Highways, Markets, Parliamentary and General Purposes, and Water Committees need no detailing here, as he has given monthly reports to the Walkley electors during his whole period of office.

Walkley has sometimes made mistakes by temporary lapses into reaction. Electors should remember that an old servant, tried and true in the workers' cause, cannot be dispensed with in these critical days. Remember "Alec." Laing's long experience when thinking of the Government's new proposals for the able-bodied unemployed. They will need a champion who knows their case. "Alec" Laing is that man.

THINGS THAT CONCERN US ALL.

Our Own Concern

The widening circles which follow the throwing of a stone into smooth water remind one of the circles in the Co-operative Movement. Our widest circle is the C.W.S., with its hundred factories and workshops; inside this is the circle of retail co-operative societies. Then come the local branch stores, followed by the separate families in membership, and lastly the individual consumer.

Six million separate consumers and their families are within the wide circle of the C.W.S., which is our own concern, manufacturing specially for us and our fellow-co-operators. When we buy C.W.S. productions we receive perfect commodities, made under ideal conditions, at a fair cost. And the benefits of co-operative trading go to no individual proprietors, but are shared fairly by all those who have taken part in the trading.

Say "C.W.S." when shopping at the Co-operative Stores.



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

Don't be gulled by the Sheffield Press.

Read "Six Years of Labour Rule in Sheffield," price 1d. On sale at the Meetings and Committee Rooms.

LABOUR WON IN 1932.

Never mind what name the opposition to Labour may assume. They are all anti-Labour, all common in their desire to frustrate Labour's progress. This is how Labour beat them all last year:—

| | VOTES. |
|------------------------|--------|
| Tory Progressives..... | 39,052 |
| Communist..... | 2,040 |
| Conservative..... | 4,028 |
| Liberal..... | 257 |
| Independent..... | 2,335 |
| Others..... | 55 |
| TOTAL..... | 55 |

ANY-LABOUR VOTE..... 47,777
LABOUR VOTE..... 63,101

TOTAL VOTE CAST..... 116,878

VOTE LABOUR THIS TIME.

PASS ON
this issue of the SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR

to a non-reader, he (or she) will

THANK YOU ! FOR IT !

COUN. S. HARTLEY MARSHALL,

or his representative, will attend the Co-operative Guild Room, Bawtry Road, every Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock. Residents of Tinsley Ward wishing to interview Mr. Marshall will be welcomed.

FLATS, FACTS, AND FIGURES.

BY ALDERMAN G. W. GASCOIGNE
(Ex-Chairman, Estates Committee).

For several years there has been persistent propaganda both in the Press and on the platform in favour of the erection of flats to solve the housing problem. The protagonists of flats claim that only in this direction can cheap rents be obtained. The Labour members of the Council, although making no claim that any question of principle is involved, have been frankly sceptical. However, we have endeavoured to keep an open mind on the question, and to be guided by the facts as ascertained by experiment. With this end in view, Labour ordered a scheme for flats to be prepared for the vacant shopping sites on the Leocley Estate. When the prices were obtained they were so excessive as to cause the Labour Party to drop the project, and in this we were supported by our opponents, no one being able to defend the building at the price involved.

EXPERIENCE IGNORED.

The result of this experience, however, did not deter our opponents at the last election foolishly to claim once again that flats could be erected to produce cheap rents. Unfortunately, they obtained power at the last election, and in due course produced a scheme for thirty-seven flats at Moorfields. These flats are to be erected over sale shops, and although the price per flat is grossly in excess of the prevailing price of houses, they decided to build them. They charged the major part of the cost to the sale shops and reduced the amount allowed for repairs and maintenance in their endeavour to make a rent comparable with the rent charged for houses.

FURTHER SCHEME.

Another scheme was sanctioned by the City Council at its October meeting. This procedure in connection with this scheme has been the most remarkable attempt to alter facts and factors to square with preconceived ideas that has ever been the lot of the writer. The scheme provides for sixty-two flats in Lambert-street and Furnace Hill. When first the tenders from contractors were presented to the committee the total of the lowest tender was £34,457. Severe criticism was levelled at the idea of paying this colossal sum for the accommodation provided, and eventually the chairman (Alderman Turner) felt compelled to withdraw the scheme for further consideration.

"WANGLED" REDUCTION.

At the next meeting, however, he reintroduced the scheme, having in the meantime made amazing revisions of the specifications to secure a reduction to £100 per flat was secured by the omission of the following items:—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Shoring to Furnace Hill..... | £0 |
| Floors and Balconies..... | 2,470 |
| Ironmongery..... | 50 |
| Ranges and Sanitary Goods..... | 230 |
| Contingencies..... | 800 |
| Brickwork in substitution of Stone-work..... | 1,000 |
| Omission of Boundary Walls, Fences, Shelter and Lay-out and Constructional variations, as per revised schedule..... | 2,350 |
| | £6,900 |

The only comment I wish to make on these alterations is that either the items should never have been in the original specification or they are still necessary. I am afraid that in many cases the latter is true.

Another startling fact is that the land, for which a gross sum of £12,000 was paid, by the City is now "put" at £3,950. Allowing for the £3,500 paid for the demolition of the buildings on the site, it shows an enormous difference between the price the Corporation were compelled to pay and the rents paid for our houses. No wonder is the real value.

MORE "ADJUSTMENTS."

Notwithstanding the aforementioned "revisions" of the tenders and land price "adjustments," the cost would not allow rents to be charged in any way comparable with the rents paid for our houses. Other "methods" had to be adopted to bolster up the case for flats. It was decided to "reduce" the interest on the capital necessary to be provided for the erection of these flats by 4 per cent., or 4½ per cent., as against the 5 per cent. still charged against all the housing schemes. This is weighting the scale against houses by an equivalent of 9d. per week on the rent.

Further "adjustment," however, was necessary, and it was decided to charge £3.00 per annum for repairs and maintenance as against the £5.00 charged for houses.

HOUSES £108 LESS THAN FLATS.

By these doubtful practices an attempt is to be made to show that flats are cheaper than houses. Nothing, however, can alter the fact that at the same meeting of the Council contracts for Houses were accepted at £232 per house as against the £341 per flat, or £108 per house less than for a flat, exclusive of land charges.

If the same rate of interest was charged for houses as it is proposed shall be charged for flats, then the rent of houses would be at least 14d. per week cheaper than even the suggested "reduced" rents for flats. In view of these plain facts Labour members feel that although, apart from the argument from an amnity and health point of view, and keeping entirely to the economic atmosphere, the case for flats is definitely not proven.

TORIES CONVICTED BY THEIR OWN EVIDENCE.

In the Education Committee's minutes, available in the libraries, the public can see recorded numerous evidences of the Tories' default in providing accommodation for pupils in schools. We give a few examples here. On page 183 of October, 1925, minutes, the Progressives, faced with 3,000 children on the Manor with no schools, decided—

"Arrangements be made for the transfer of two huts from Redmire Camp, and their re-erection on the site reserved for the Manor Housing Estate for the Queen Mary Council School.

From page 311 we learn that at the end of September, 1925, the schools at Netherthorpe, St. George's, St. Stephen's, Netherthorpe, and Gipsy's, St. Stephen's, were all "full," with twenty-six children of five years of age waiting for admission.

"To give relief to Crookesmoor and St. Stephen's has been arranged for the classes to be taught in the main rooms of the boys' and girls' departments of Crookesmoor School from October 1st, but this does not touch the Netherthorpe difficulty, where between twenty and thirty children are awaiting admission, and the waiting list increases almost daily."

AMAZING REPORT.

Page 279, September, 1926, it says: "The committee receive a report from the Senior Inspector of Schools, and a table was presented setting out the shortage in various schools. He states: "Out of the approximate estimated number of 3,000 children on the Manor Estate, only 1,024 are in attendance, which means that 2,000 children of school age are not in attendance at school mainly because there is no school accommodation."

LONG JOURNEYS.

"The 1,024 children on the Manor that did not go to school were distributed as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Queen Mary Temporary..... | 232 |
| Manor Council..... | 429 |
| Isabella Council..... | 276 |
| Gleadless Council..... | 7 |
| Darnall C.E..... | 118 |
| Darnall-road Council..... | 8 |
| Whitby-road Council..... | 38 |
| Handsworth Council..... | 6 |
| Total..... | 1,024 |

* Some of these children admitted during the past week have been out of school for eight months and over."

"From the foregoing table it will be seen that of the 3,000 children on the Manor Estate only 1,024 are in attendance at school."

OCTOBER 25th, 1926.

The Education Committee instructed the city architect to prepare plans for six army huts from the Redmire Camp and their re-erection on the site to be acquired from the Estates Committee of the City Council at Peabody-road and Motel-hill road.

Labour was elected on November 1st, and on November 9th the Labour Education Committee was appointed.

NINE DAYS AFTER, November 18th, 1926, The Labour Party cancelled the hut recommendations and instructions were given to arrange for the erection of new elementary schools.

NEW SCHOOLS AT LAST.

On December 6th, 1926, Page 392, less than a month after, recommended "That the sketch plans submitted by the city architect for the erection of a public elementary school to accommodate 1,462 children, with provision of science laboratories, manual instruction, cookery rooms, and a caretaker's house, on the site at the corner of Pipeworth-road and Prince of Wales-road, as approved by the School Management Sectional Sub-Committee, be adopted."

They further recommended that the tender of Messrs W. Marlow & Sons Ltd., of the erection of the Prince Edward School, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the city architect, for the sum of £48,314, be accepted.

The Sub-Committee authorised the city architect to arrange for the Prince Edward Council School to be proceeded with and completed in sections in order that the department for younger children may be opened at the earliest opportunity.

SINCE THEN LABOUR HAS ERECTED

Additional schools of Stand House and Wyburn. Further accommodation was in contemplation by the Labour Party for this year's extra children. The Progressives, however, hired a room in Prince of Wales-road, and children are daily marching in waves to and from their school to this room, no matter what the weather. This is done to "save" building the proposed extension.



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