



NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE. TARIFFS, QUOTAS, AND TRADE AGREEMENTS CANNOT CURE POVERTY.

By The Rt. Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER.

In his recent speech at the Guildhall the Prime Minister referred to the slight but definite improvement in trade in such a way as to infer that this improvement was the result of the policy of the Government. The Prime Minister said: "We have got there by no magic. We have done it by no manipulation of currencies. **WE HAVE DONE IT BY SOUND ECONOMY.** It has been laid." As to the economy there is no doubt. As to whether the economy has been sound is quite another matter.

THE WORKERS PAY.

Let us take, for example, the present Budget position. Mr. Chamberlain is anticipating that he will have a surplus next April.

This will only be possible by the maintenance of the ruthless economies instituted by the National Government and by the imposition of new taxation on the poorest sections of the community through heavy increases of taxation upon food and commodities.

The economies, comprising cuts in rates of unemployment benefit, reduced expenditure on transitional benefit through the operation of the Means Test, increased unemployment insurance contributions, cuts in the pay of police, teachers, and so on, amount to well over £100,000,000 a year, whilst the increase in Customs duties (i.e., taxes upon imported commodities), in spite of the reduction in the volume of imports, will involve an additional £50,000,000 in the year 1933-34 of well over £50,000,000 as compared with 1930-31. This means that the spending power of the people is reduced by over £100,000,000 by economy, and that they are taxed an additional £50,000,000 in spending their reduced incomes. To argue that such a policy is "sound economy" and accounts for improved trade is either sheer folly or deliberate mendacity.

TREMENDOUS FALL IN WORLD TRADE.

Now, the fact is that the statements made in 1931 as to the Labour Government being responsible for the trade

and financial position are daily being proved to have been false. For example, the "World Economic Survey," published by the League of Nations, a few weeks ago, contains a striking diagram showing the contracting spiral of world trade since January, 1929. The figure of world trade in that month was estimated to be 5,351 million gold dollars. By January, 1931, this figure had made a tremendous fall to 1,988 million gold dollars for the month.

Thus in four years two-thirds of the world's trade in value had been wiped out. With such a heavy decline in world trade and the holding off by all nations in buying

perence of the United States of America, the highest tariff country in the world, leads us to exactly the reverse conclusion. The United States tariff was raised to its present high level by what is known as the Hawley-Smoot Tariff in 1930. U.S.A. exports for the year 1929 amounted to 5,157,084,000 dollars. This figure had the fall by 1932 to 1,617,000,000 dollars—little more than one-fourth of the export trade of 1929. It is significant that rapid as has been the fall in British exports in the period of world depression, it was never so rapid as in the case of America, although no general tariff was imposed in this country until February, 1932.

resorted to measures which, **WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY OFFERING SOME TEMPORARY RELIEF . . .** add to the general stagnation of world trade, and so intensify the influences which increase our troubles. Equally contradictory statements can be produced from almost every Minister in the Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY RESTRICTS TRADE.

It is argued that the adoption of tariffs and quotas by this country is only with a view to using them as a lever to reduce or abolish the tariffs and quotas of other countries. There is, however, no evidence at all to indicate that such a policy is being generally successful. This is abundantly proved by the much-wanted Trade Agreements which have recently been entered into by this country. In the case of the Danish treaty we are to obtain 80 per cent. of the Danish coal market, whereas we had 90 per cent. of that market in 1931. Whilst the Danish and German treaties combined give us an increase of 2,000,000 tons of coal export, we lose 2,000,000 tons of export to France by the adoption of the new French policy in reply to our tariffs. In 1924 Denmark took practically 90 per cent. of her coke from us. The new treaty merely hopes that we shall retain the 68 per cent. of the Danish coke trade which was ours in 1930. The German treaty provides for 280,000 tons per month of British coal export to Germany, compared with 340,000 tons per month in 1928, 376,000 tons in 1929, and 344,000 tons in 1930; and there can be no increase under the treaty beyond the 280,000 tons schedule unless the total German consumption rises above 7,500,000 tons per month. Even if German coal consumption were to recover to its highest figure ever recorded, our trade treaty with Germany would secure us 23,000 tons less per month than in 1931—the worst year in the history of British coal trade. I think it is true to say, therefore, that not only has the policy of the Government failed to break down tariff and

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Christmas Greetings TO ALL OUR READERS!

because of uncertainty, it is only natural that there should be some movement now in the direction of replenishing stocks, but these are quite definite information that this improvement is general in the world and not confined to this country. Certainly it cannot be claimed to be the result of the Government's tariff policy.

TARIFF FAILURE IN AMERICA.

In their sinner moments, members of the Government admit this. Mr. Thomas, for example, said last year—

Do not be misled by mere talk that we are the independent of the world. When 48 per cent. of the population of the world are not buying all they should buy it is not a case of over-production.

Thomas did not go on to explain to us how raising prices or checking to us how raising prices or checking to their fall by the imposition of tariffs and quotas would correct matters gone wrong. On the contrary, the ex-

I observe that the Prime Minister claimed with pride that we had regained our position as the principal exporting country. If that is so, it is not because of any very marked advance in our trade, as we are well below the figure of exports of 1931. It has been because of the failure of Protectionist countries throughout the world to deal effectively with the general depression by a process of restricting trade.

CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS.

The tales which are told by Ministers on this question vary so much as to be almost ludicrous. Last April the Prime Minister said that the doctrines of Free Trade were as dead as Queen Anne; but in June, at the opening of the World Economic Conference, he stated that one of the causes of deterioration in world trade was that nations pursuing a policy of national Protection had



Right Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER.

HILLSBOROUGH PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the
WYCLIFFE HALL, CHANNING STREET (Langsett Rd.)
at 7-30 p.m.
ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th,
SPEAKERS:
RT. HON. A. V. ALEXANDER
and REV.
G. S. WOODS
(Co-operative Candidate in the Rushcliffe By-Election).
ALL ELECTORS CORDIALLY INVITED.



REV. G. S. WOODS.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE.
(Continued from page 20.)

quota restrictions throughout the world, but it has also definitely limited by trade treaties the extent to which we can recover our share in the world market in any general revival of world trade.

OTTAWA AGREEMENT.

This position is emphasised by some of the results of the Ottawa Agreements. For months negotiations have been going on with a view to securing a new trade agreement with Russia, but at every point the restrictions placed upon this country at Ottawa are hobbling and preventing a re-establishment of trade with what might well be a growing market. It is pathetic in such circumstances to read the hectic appeals to save the great hearing industry by means of roping trade with Russia. No less an authority than the "Morning Post" reports on November 11th that "before the war 75 per cent. of our trade in herrings was with Russia, who to-day buys in herrings from us at all, and that until the Anglo-Russian trade agreement is signed we can expect no business with Russia at all. Nor is this the end of the story of our troubles as the result of the wonderful Ottawa Treaties, for contemporary with Protectionist tariffs against the foreigner and reductions of foreign imports by quotas, the home agriculturist is still being cramped by increasing imports from the Dominions. This applies to nearly all our important food commodities, but especially to frozen meat, bacon, butter, and cheese—four of the principal staple foods of the nation. Quotas are then applied to foreign countries, with immediate higher prices to the consumer.

INCREASED FOOD PRICES.

At Kilmarnock recently Mr. Macdonald stated that they could look the homewife in the face—a remark which excited the fair comment that, if so, it was only to throw dust in her eyes. Even the Ministry of Labour cost-living figures show an increase from 35 per cent. above 1914 in June to 41 per cent. in October. In particular items, however, there are very much larger increases and of a character which causes great hardship. Take

bacon for example. Between January and September of this year, as a result of the Government's quota policy, wholesale prices of bacon advanced as follows—

Smoked English Sides	72s. cwt.	105s. cwt.
Smoked Irish Sides	73s. cwt.	104s. cwt.
Smoked Danish Sides	71s. cwt.	103s. cwt.
Smoked Polish Sides	55s. cwt.	92s. cwt.

These are indeed heavy increases. One of our largest co-operative buyers pointed out to me recently that the worst feature was that the cheaper cuts such as streaks and fores have enormously increased, with the result that this type of cut, which was so acceptable particularly in areas where pork is scarce at a low ebb, has gone out of power in the hands of the poorer consumer, who has ceased therefore to be a buyer of bacon at all at the moment. To illustrate this point, whilst between January and September the advance on sides is counted to rather over 50 per cent. increase, the advance in price for streaks was no less than 168 per cent. We are now to have a further reduction of the foreign price, and still larger imports from the Dominions, with no relief to the farmer.

INCREASED POVERTY.

What has been the general effect upon the level of prosperity of the country of this much-vaulted Government policy? There is no better index to this than the Poor-Law figures. According to an answer in the House of Commons on November 7th the number of persons in receipt of out-relief in England and Wales has increased since September, 1931, by no less than 320,000, whilst the increase in Scotland as far as can be ascertained from the statistics available amounts for an increase of over 100,000. The increased poverty as the result of the National Government's policy has put over 620,000 additional persons on the Poor-Law. Well may we exclaim with the pioneers of last century that "The people are poor because they are robbed, and robbed because they are poor." It is surely time that this so-called National Government was given notice to quit.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND THE BY-ELECTIONS.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ROUTED ON TAX ISSUE.

The National Government, which imposed unfair taxation upon co-operative societies, is receiving a severe thrashing in the polls. In the East Fulham by-election the National candidate was rejected, and an amazing victory was achieved by Mr. J. C. Wilmot, the Labour representative, who said quite definitely that he was concerned with the repeal of that measure which unjustly places further pressure, so far as income tax is concerned, on co-operative societies. A corollary on co-operative was sent from Mr. R. Palmer (general secretary of the Co-operative Union), urging co-operative electors in that division to give Mr. Wilmot full support. Not only had Wilmot full support, but the Labour Party, and restrictions were designed to give the subsidies to the producers at the expense of the household.

At Skipton and at Kilmarnock by-elections the National Government lost considerable ground. In Skipton the National candidate's majority was reduced by 30,000 votes, and at Kilmarnock the National candidate polled only one or three votes.

The Rushmore Division of Manchester was a real Co-operative political arena. The Rev. G. S. Woods, a member of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union, fought the Government on peace, the tax issue, and on the Government's general policy of economy at any price.

The candidate upheld the credit of the co-operative movement splendidly through the long fight. He embarked upon what some people regarded as a forlorn hope.

Rushmore has had a distinct Tory tradition since the constituency was outlined in 1918. For a brief spell Mr. Masterman represented the division in the Liberal interests; but all the rest of the time the Tories have held the seat and regarded it as a safe seat.

It is no longer safe, because for the first time the co-operative movement in Rushmore has taken up the cudgels and has shown that it can fight.

The result of the election was:—

E. A. Radford (Nat. Cons.)	13,904
G. S. Woods (Co-op.)	11,003
Dr. McDougall (Lab. Ind.)	2,503

Tory majority 2,899

This is a narrow victory for the Conservative upholder of the "National" Government. The significance of the vote may be gleaned from the fact that in 1921 the Tory had 24,817 votes against 13,904 in this election. The Liberal had 4,654 against 2,503. This Conservative majority was 15,599 less than 2,000 years ago. The Liberal vote was 2,000 less than two years ago. The vote polled by the Co-operative candidate was 4,658 more than the poll of the Labour candidate at the last election.

Mr. Woods and the Co-operative Party have every reason to be proud of the result. Rushmore has lost to the other by-elections in exposure of the hypocrisy of the "National" Government's pretence to speak for the nation. No Labour candidate has ever approached a poll like that led by Mr. Woods, and the result is due to the candidate himself and to the routing of the co-operative movement in the constituency, besides the popular revision of feeling against the Government.

What happened in Rushmore has also happened in the placid, sleepy constituency of Rutland and Stamford. The voting there took place on the same day, and the result was declared as follows:—

Mr. W. G. Widdows (Lab.)	24,665
Arnold Grey (Lab.)	12,818

Conservative majority ... 1,787

Here is a rural constituency as trusted with the urban division of Rushmore. The landlord still holds sway over a great part of the division, yet the Tory vote is over 4,000 down and the Labour vote 5,000 up on the last election result; while the Tory majority has fallen from 11,640 to 1,787.

In this division, too, the co-operative movement helped to put a few nails in the coffin of the Government. The Tory supporter of the Government decided to stand by the Chancellor's penal tax on the co-operative movement. The Labour candidate pledged himself to remove that penal legislation from the Statute Book. The Peterborough Society went all out to urge its members to vote against the Government candidate. They and the voters are to be congratulated on the result.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH.

By DESMOND J. FRANGAN.

Tax failure of the nation is dependent on the decision of youth. Why? Because there is a broken generation that well-nigh perished on the fields of Flanders! The generation that should be leading has passed. The responsibility for clearing up the post-war chaos lies on the shoulders of youth.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

There are few young people to-day who, if they themselves are not unemployed, have not some schoolfellow or friend workless. Fit and willing young people are cast on the scrap heap and designated unemployed before they have set foot on the way of life.

The Labour and Co-operative parties stand for organising industry and commerce to serve the people by providing them with work and by making it possible for the people to be able to purchase the necessities of life at fair prices.

The Labour and Co-operative parties aim at protecting the worker from vested interests who seek to oppress the workers and protect the profitier.

CUTTING CONSUMING POWER.

When leading economists are diagnosing the state of the country as being a consequence of under-consumption, the "National" Government has robbed the people of consuming power by a system of quotas and tariffs

by cuts in salaries and social services; and by the imposition of the Means Test.

The Labour and Co-operative parties abhor the complacency of the "National" Government in dealing with unemployment, and the Government's pessimistic outlook in regarding the great army of unemployed as inevitable.

By increasing construction work and by insisting on the internal reorganisation of industry, the Labour and Co-operative parties believe production can be restored.

Mass production needs mass markets. Tariff dope, quite apart from injuring the home-consumer, is causing the imposition of counter-tariffs, which ruin international trading operations upon which this country is to a large extent dependent.

PEACE OR PIECES.

It is not sentimental to be a pacifist. A next war will not entail the strongest and youngest method, marching out with bayonets. No! Mothers, wives, sweethearts, and all the race will be the targets of the most devilish gases, rays, and explosives ever brought to light. Youth must show the "National" Government and the ambitious and selfish war-mongers that there must be no suspense.

Many young people will go to vote in the next election for the first time. They must go and they must let the regime of vested interests know the way has come for it to "jump out of the way for representatives of the people.

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held a meeting on Tuesday, November 21st, when Councillor W. G. Robbison was the speaker. In pointing out that no radical alteration in policy by the Co-operative and Labour Parties would be indicated by a Progressive budgeting unit next March, he expressed the opinion that the time for spectacular achievements had passed, and that policy should now be directed to attending to the relatively smaller and more detailed requirements of the citizens.

Mr. C. Longley (ex-secretary, and an enthusiastic worker for the Party) was the recipient of a present in celebration of his marriage. A beautiful cut-glass bowl and a case of cutlery were presented as a mark of appreciation. Councillor Robbison, in making the presentation, and thanking Mr. Longley for the splendid service he had rendered, expressed the hope that Mr. Longley would carry out the same co-operative principles—on which he had worked so enthusiastically amongst the public—in his new home-life.

The next meeting of the Council will be notified by circular.

BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Divisional Party are holding a meeting in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute, Bellhouse-road, on December 21st, when Councillor J. A. Longden (chairman, Sheffield Co-operative Party) will be the speaker. A social evening will follow. Secretary: Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sney-Avenue.

BURNGREAVE.

The Burngreave Women's Section meetings are held every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m., in the Burngreave Vestry Hall. Secretary: Mrs. Yelland, 25, Catherine-road.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Divisional Council held its meetings following upon the strenuous municipal election campaign. On November 2nd, Mrs. S. Ludbrook was the speaker; 9th, Mr. H. Robbison; 15th, the social and dance in the large Institute drew a big crowd; 16th, Mr. J. H. Pearce (secretary, Brightside and Carbrook education committee) gave a cinema lecture on "Co-operative Productions"; 23rd, Mr. Drabble was the speaker; 30th, Mr. A. B. Griffiths (City Trades) gave a lantern lecture "Municipal Finance in Pictures."

Programme for December: 7th, play-reading; 14th, Press cuttings and discussion; 21st, monthly City Council report. On January 2nd the annual tea, social, and dance will be held in the large Institute; tea at 5 p.m., social and dance from 7 to 12 p.m. Tickets for tea, social, and dance, 2s. 6d.; social and dance only, 1s.

The Women's Section meetings, held in the large Institute, Monday afternoons, have had well-attended meetings during November; 6th, the social drew a magnificent crowd; 13th, Mr. M. Goldblum's address on "Jewish Poor-Law" proved very interesting; 20th, Councillor J. Dimberline, J.P. (president, Brightside and Carbrook Society), gave a well-informed address on "Co-operative"; 27th, a business meeting took place.

Programme for December: 4th, American tea; 11th, Mr. W. Tubbenor (League of Nations Union) will be the speaker; 18th, Mr. H. Bedford will give the first of his series on "Charles Dickens as a Reformer." Secretary: Mrs. R. M. Wood, 13, Hillsborough-place.

NEEPSEND.

The Neepsend Party report well-attended meetings in November. 16th, Councillor (Mrs.) Speight gave the monthly City Council report, and particularly with the plan for the erection of flats in the areas that have been dealt with under slum clearance, and justified the Labour Party's decision to carry the flats scheme as it is calculated to recreate new congested areas at a

higher cost than the building of decent houses for the people.

At the business meeting held on November 21st, reports of a series of

December 6th, Business Meeting; by Alderman Hewitt.

The Women's Section reopened their November programme with a social on the 13th. On the 20th, the usual meeting was held, and on the 27th a visit was paid to the Desbry-street Nursery School; 27th, Mr. Ernest Green was the speaker. Meetings held every Monday afternoon in the Co-operative Institute, Manners-street.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Party, who were denied the pleasure of contesting an election owing to the Neepsend themselves having a "walk-over," spread themselves in the various other wards and assisted very materially in the magnificent Co-operative and Labour victory that we achieved throughout the city. The fact of securing a "walk-over," however, was not a relaxation of the efforts of the Southey and Norwood people. They are keeping their machine up-to-date, and resumed their weekly meetings on November 8th, when Mr. H. Scott (prospective Labour candidate, Penistone Division) gave an inspiring address on "Disarmament." Nov. 15th, Alderman J. Hewitt gave the monthly report of the City Council meeting, and replied to many questions by keenly-interested members of the audience. November 22nd, a very successful Mock Cutlers' Feast took place; seventy guests attended, and the proceedings were of a highly amusing character. The "Junior Chamber of Commerce," in the form of a number of members' children, occupied a central position at the "Feast." The president, described as "Sir Henry Dubb," was installed as "Master Cutler," whilst other roles were occupied by Mr. E. Womersley, Councillor A. Oates, Mr. W. Scott, and Mr. Thakley, "Lord Rotherham"; "The Lord Mayor," "Bishop of Sheffield," "Chief Usher," and others were supposed to be present, but the invitations must have gone astray, for all these people were represented by the afore-mentioned. Musical items concluded a very happy evening. On November 29th, Mr. H. Slack (secretary, Cutlers' Union) gave an interesting address on "The New Trade Board."

The committee are planning a grand reunion social for January 3rd. Announcements of details will be made later; meantime, members and friends are asked to reserve this date.

The Women's Section have cancelled their meetings for the next few weeks on account of Christmas preparations, but will reopen on Wednesday, January 10th.

In order to co-ordinate the work of

the Southey and Norwood Section with the rest of the Neepsend Ward, a new executive has been set up, comprising the post-captains and officials of the two Women's Sections and the two local committees. Mrs. A. H. Fletcher, 95, Fickering-road, has been appointed as secretary, and all matters relating to the general ward organisation will be referred to this executive. It is hoped in this way still further to improve the splendid organisation in this area.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held a successful rally at the Vestry Hall on November 20th, when Mr. Fred Langdon, Dip. Econ., Pol. Sci., Osmun, was the principal speaker. Councillor J. A. Longden (chairman, Sheffield Co-operative Party) presided. Councillor W. Hancock was also present. The Sheffield and Ecclesall Choral Society were responsible for an excellent musical programme.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, December 18th, in the Cemetery-road Guildroom, when Mr. W. Berry will deal with "The History of the Bank of England."

It is hoped that new accommodation will be held shortly for the monthly meeting. Indeed, it may be possible to arrange weekly meetings for the section in the very near future. Further announcements of these developments will be made later. Secretary: Mr. G. H. Green, 17, Slate-street.

The Women's Section continues to hold good and interesting meetings, having had a most instructive series of addresses during the month of November.

Miss Beever (woman organiser, Shop Assistants' Union) gave an interesting address showing the bad conditions and long hours under which some women shop assistants have to work. The speaker said that whilst some large establishments have modern fronts they have Queen Anne backs where bad conditions prevail.

On November 26th, Mr. W. H. Hunt gave an instructive address on the new Rent Act, and explained to the members that the people themselves were to blame if they paid more than the prescribed amount in raised rent. He also described the case of sub-tenants and sub-letting. This brought out a good discussion, and a profitable time was spent. On November 27th, Mr. Williams was the speaker on the new regulations in regard to the Health Insurance Act. He dealt with hardships affecting men and women who had been unemployed for three or four years, also the case of elderly persons who would be deprived of pensions through being unemployed. This, said the speaker, would throw the responsibility on the local rates instead of being borne by the nation. On the 30th they had a play-reading from the Sheffield and Ecclesall Play-readers. All co-operative women are given a hearty invitation to the meetings. Secretary: Mrs. J. Blizum, 46, Birly Athol-road.

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"NEVER AGAIN!"

SAYS ELLEN WILKINSON.

Reprinted from "Nottingham Free-Press."

How many times after the war did men and women all over the world pledge themselves: "Never again?" How many women's meetings cheered that closing sentence: "We are determined that our sons shall never have to go through what our husbands suffered in this war?"

And we meant it. To the ordinary peoples of the world another war seemed inconceivable. The women who had distributed white feathers kept quiet. No one would listen to them.

From every women's organisation, from every church and chapel, from the sewing meeting in the humblest Bethel

little boy to hear my friend. An unemotional woman I had always thought her.

But at these words she held her boy close to her and with tears in her eyes said to me: "Can't anything be done? What were women given the vote for if we can't use it to make our statesmen understand that they MUST make war impossible?"

WOMAN'S BELIEF.

War that may mean extinction to men bored with the routine of civilised life means to a woman that "the man I love" or "the son I bore" may be killed.



to the great women's meetings in the Albert Hall, rose the cry: "There shall be no more war."

It almost seemed unnecessary to pass more resolutions, to sign any more petitions. The last war had ended all wars.

But fifteen years have passed and the women voters who so enthusiastically pledged themselves to use their new power for peace are beginning to think that things have not changed much after all.

THINKING WAR.

Most countries are spending as much, some far more, on their armaments as they did in that year of dread that ended in 1914. Great parades of armed forces are held by every country. Politicians are beginning to talk of "the next war" as though it was inevitable as the coming of winter.

Over the wireless not long ago a cultured voice said quite pleasantly that of course in the next war it would be a question of hours whether London or the enemy's capital was wiped out first. A friend of mine had brought her

World peace will be secured when women learn to use their new public power with the same intensity of purpose they have shown in securing their personal ends. Already the coming of women into public life is influencing post-war diplomacy.

Having been behind the scenes at a session of the League of Nations at Geneva, as well as seeing something of politics at home, I have been impressed by the, as yet hardly realised, power that voting women possess.

The statesmen of to-day are still living in the world of ideas of 1914. Many of them were actually leaders in the diplomacy that led to that catastrophe, and though they pay lip-service to the ideals of the post-war generation, they are still making the same old blunders. And the most fatal of these blunders is "that their country will not stand for real disarmament."

That is the basic idea which women voters must attack. A mass of sickly sentimentality about war being necessary to protect women was shown up for

[Continued in next column.]

WHO STANDS FOR PEACE?

BEHIND THE VEIL OF TORY PRETENCE.

The National Government, shocked by the demand of the people at East Fulham, Rushmore, and Rutland and Stamford, in the recent by-elections, for a policy of peace and disarmament, has now turned on an attempt to convince the people that the present Government stands for peace.

Actions speak louder than words, and the present so-called National Government has a sorry record when judged from this practical standpoint: for a few days ago the First Lord of the Admiralty announced in the House of Commons that the Government had authorised the building of two new cruisers of a bigger type, and further stated that these are a challenge to Japan and America.

How Englishmen can deliberately plan to rival their cousins in naval armaments, and in the name of peace, goodness knows, but such is the fact officially announced in the British House of Commons.

Again, after a debate in both Houses of Parliament, Lord Londonderry (Secretary for Air) announced that Britain would build up to the standard of the highest power in the world. That power at present is France, which has 1,650 aeroplanes against Britain's 850. Unless France reduces its number, therefore, the British fleet will ultimately be increased by 800 machines. This in spite of the fact that experts agree that it is utterly impossible to defend a thickly populated country like England from air attack. It is obvious that armaments only create more armaments, and in the long run provide no defence. Nothing but drastic disarmament and the constant pursuit of a policy of peace can guarantee peace.

CO-OPERATIVES STAND FOR PEACE.

The co-operative movement has consistently stood for peace, for disarmament, and for International Co-operation from its very inception. Co-operative Congresses have reiterated the demand; every auxiliary body within the Co-operative movement—the Men's Guild, the Women's Guild, and other organisations—have sent deputations, prepared monster petitions, and, in short, used every effort to influence statesmen in the direction of a World Commonwealth of Nations.

Moreover, the International Co-operative Alliance, as its very name implies, has been established for the specific

[Continued from previous column.]

lie in the last war. Women don't want any more of that kind of protection. They realise that "women and children first" will be a ghastly reality in the next war, which will certainly be a chemical war.

The new diplomacy of peace cannot be undertaken by the old men of war.

purpose of arranging industry and all other economic relationships on a basis of international friendly co-operation and peace.

THE TORY MIND.

Whatever "National" Government spokesmen may say about their desire for disarmament and peace, the Tory Party, which has an overwhelming majority in the Government and the House of Commons, has made it clear that disarmament is not part of that party's policy.

The Conservative Party Conference, held at Birmingham on October 5th and 6th, 1933, was unanimous in its demand for arms armaments. The Conference passed the following resolution:

That this conference desires to record its grave anxiety in regard to the inadequacy of the provisions made for Imperial defence.

Lord Lloyd moved the resolution, and the following are extracts from his speech, as reported in the "Morning Post" on October 6th:—

There was an overwhelming majority of Conservatives in Parliament. Why should they be dragged at the head of Socialism? . . . The strong man armed keeps his goods in peace. . . . They were all sick and tired of seeing the Conservative Party pledged to pacifist international doctrines. Let them give a firm message to the Government.

The "Morning Post" (Conservative) reported that Lord Lloyd "received a tremendous ovation, both on rising and when he had concluded his speech," and that "the resolution was carried unanimously amid scenes of great enthusiasm."

LABOUR'S DEMAND FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE.

Compare the foregoing resolution with the following resolution passed by the Labour Party Conference at Hastings on October 4th, 1933:—

This Conference favours the total disarmament of all nations throughout the world, and the creation of an international police force; and calls upon the British Government at the Disarmament Conference to abandon its retrograde attitude on the question of air-bombing, and to submit proposals for

the abolition of military aircraft and for the international control of civil aviation.

For the suppression of all private manufacture and trade in arms. And for strict international inspection and control of the execution of a disarmament treaty.

£6,000,000

WHAT THE COST OF ONE BATTLESHIP WILL BUY



- and 50 Hospitals £1,000,000
- and 50 Miles of Arterial Roads £1,000,000
- and 100 Miles of Country Roads £1,000,000
- and 100 Recreation Grounds £1,000,000
- and 100 Schools £1,000,000
- and 1,000 Houses £1,000,000

and give a year's employment to at least 20,000 men.

Work for Disarmament—Help the Nation—and STOP WAR!

Some productive uses for the money spent on building ONE Battleship



50 HOSPITALS each costing £20,000

£1,000,000



and 50 MILES of ARTERIAL ROADS at £20,000 per mile

£1,000,000



and 100 MILES of COUNTRY ROADS

at £10,000 per mile

£1,000,000

BACK IN POWER!

CO-OPERATION AND LABOUR TAKES CONTROL.

NOVEMBER 1ST altered the complexion of the City Council once again. "Reducing" rates by the method of not paying bills had no great attractions for the voters, who evidently quite understood the dodge.

Next year we have six seats to defend — about which we have no doubts, and sixteen to attack. Cautious prophets are harping on a gain of ten. Naturally, there are heavy responsibilities. The policy in the Council for the next twelve months must have nothing of faint-heartedness; nor is it likely to have.

THE NEW LORD MAYOR.

Like that of a butterfly, the life of a Lord Mayor is "gay" and highly spectacular, but exceedingly short. He spends his new-found years on November 9th, and for one brief year has a dizzy flight through dinners, banquets, receptions, bazaars, openings, and so on, and punctually to the minute, one year afterwards, he lays his glory by. Alderman Wilson has lost his wings and his sheen, and nobody can distinguish him now from a mere alderman, who has not even the repute of having a "corporation" in these lean days. The proper epitaph for any ex-Lord Mayor on the day after his departure is: "He has been, he has gone for good!" Forbidden be it that such a depressing thought should occur to the n.r. Lord Mayor, however!

Alderman Fred Marshall enters upon his year of office with our good wishes, and the hope that a recent slight tendency towards a "fatter figure" will not be unduly exaggerated by the multitude and size of meals he is expected to eat.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS.

After the Lord Mayor's hushenry, the members of the Council commence their monthly deliberations—to which, of course, the general public is admitted. But that is overstating the case, since perhaps one hundred of the citizens are all that could be accommodated! Details have been all thrashed out in committee during the previous month, and now the committee decisions come up for confirmation, rejection, or reference back for further consideration.

Alderman Graves had offered £16,000 for the extension of Weston Park Museum, which was accepted with thanks. The enlargement is really greatly necessary, since the present museum is little more than a densely packed store-room of interesting things; too close together to be seen! Besides, the value of a public museum is largely in the descriptive notes or verbal addresses which should be made with respect to small representative groups of objects, illustrating some particular period or phase of human life, or such groups as making clear the fundamentals of some science or art. That

involves, properly, not merely a collection of things, but their isolation in definite and well-separated groups, preferably in two distinct sets: first, representative, and their more detailed education; and second, comprehensive, for students.

No civic museum should be without a guide whose duty it is to explain in an interesting manner to the general public, and we hope that the Museum extension will contain a room capable of seating, say, eighty people. That would enable groups from working-class organizations of all kinds to be accommodated for classes, lectures, with illustrations for frequent objects, within the Museum. . . . However, that is by the way.

ART.

We are not so convinced as to the desirability of a director for the Art Gallery. An occasional lecture is, very useful factor, but the appreciation is not helped, we think, by the presence of the expert. And where expert guidance is required in the choice or pricing of pictures—a relatively rare matter—such help is obtainable for each case of need. In art (as in the museum) it is not in the high-brow examples, but in their educational and aesthetic value that they are of worth to the public at large. The essential art is that which arises directly, and among the people themselves. However, this is a personal point of view, and since a Director of Civic Art Galleries has been appointed, he will have such support as we can give.

CHRISTMAS DAY TRAMS.

Alderman Wadley wanted a fuller service of cars on Christmas Day, and was generally supported by a number of councillors. Obviously, a city that covers so large an area as Sheffield is in need of a permanent service. Christmas Day now should be adequately served with tram and bus transport, and, indeed, the service should never entirely cease through the nights. Of course, from midnight to five in the morning it would not "pay," even to run a half-hourly service, but, on the other hand, there are cases of sickness where relatives are required to make journeys from point to point, a small class of late workers, and those who go or come by train in the early hours.

The matter will require to be thought out as a whole, and the service spread out so as to be perpetual where the need is there. That, of course, is precisely what is done in the case of railway transport.

Incidentally, Alderman Jackson made a "boom" over Christmas Day trams, since he objected to Alderman Rowlinson's suggestion that it had been commenced on the request of religious bodies. Reference to the Council minutes for 1932-3 supported Alderman Rowlinson's remark.

LIBRARIES.

The new Central Library is approaching completion, and will be a first-class institution in the very centre of the city before long. Naturally, there are problems in connection with so large a venture, and the question as to how it shall be heated was discussed. For the time being, oil is to be used, but Councillor Fry had got hold of figures from somewhere or other which frightened the Council. It was agreed to give oil a trial, however; and to obtain a report as to relative costs of coal, coke, and oil. As Alderman Graves remarked, one cannot go far wrong in a trial period. Worse than the matter of heating is that of the provision of new books. Because of Council economies—which have fallen excessively on the libraries during the past two years—the provision of new books and the re-binding of many others has had to be postponed. Books are now on the shelves which are not fit to be issued. Many others have had to be withdrawn and placed in stock.

The new library will demand a larger supply than ever before, with the result that an annual book fund of £8,000 will be imperative. However, fuller details of the condition of the libraries will appear in these columns at a later date.

EDUCATION.

The education committee works on its own responsibility, and is not in the position of needing to have its minutes before the Council. It does not come under the limelight, therefore, as other committees do; and it receives no effective public criticism because of the relative darkness in which its doings are hid. The Progressives had taken steps to appoint certain teachers as headmasters who are under thirty years old. That overlooks the rightful claims of those who are older and equally efficient on general grounds, with the added experience of years, and also prevents their ever becoming headmasters. Whatever may be done in public schools, the provision of schools for elementary scholars are best controlled by men who are over thirty. Perhaps some of the elderly councillors and aldermen who made these proposals will themselves give way in their own walks of life for men under thirty. That is putting the boot on the other leg, of course.

We do not say that the new order of things since November 1st is halfhearted, that can hardly be so—but there will be a much higher degree of efficiency combined with the recognition that education and all its controls are intended primarily for the scholars.

THE FUTURE.

We can look forward to some years of Labour control in affairs once more, though Parliament prevents our doing the things that most matter. There can be no considerable improvement in Sheffield's affairs except by far-reaching national action, especially in matters of finance for the country as a whole, and the granting of large powers to Local Authorities than they at present possess. J. H. B.

LADIES', GIRLS', AND BOYS' FOOTWEAR.

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MEN'S AND YOUTH'S HIGH GRADE FOOTWEAR.

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STYLES AND SUBSTANCE TO MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS.

EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED.

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FOOTWEAR FOR GENTS AND BOYS.

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KETTERING CO-OPERATIVE BOOT SOCIETY

HAVE LOCK WORKS, KETTERING.

SPEND WISELY! Build Healthy, Happy Homes

with the money saved by Disarmament



and 100 RECREATION GROUNDS each costing £10,000
£1,000,000



and 100 SCHOOLS each costing £10,000
£1,000,000



and 1,000 FURNISHED HOUSES each costing £750 and including £250 worth of Furniture
£1,000,000

ROBBING THE WORKERS OF THEIR PENSIONS MEAN "ECONOMY" ACT.

The National Health Insurance affords a fine example of what Conservative "economy" means. Between 100,000 and 150,000 insured persons will lose all medical benefits in the very near future. The arrangement was that the Conservative Act should have come into operation at the end of this year, and it applied to most of the people now unemployed who had paid in the Health Insurance for years until they lost their jobs.

The Minister of Health has admitted that already 80,000 unemployed persons have been deprived of sickness, disablement, and maternity benefits owing to their inability, due to prolonged unemployment, to pay their arrears of contributions.

At the end of the present year these persons will also lose their right to medical benefit and will be thrown on to the Poor-Law medical service.

But when the Labour Party raised this matter in the House, the Government benches were practically empty, and even the Minister had to express his regret that most M.P.s were not present. The Labour Party pressed for a grant to be made that would repay the money taken from the fund in 1926 when the Government reduced the grant by about £2,850,000, and all the Ministers granted in the way of a "concession" was an extension of four months in the period allowed for the payment of arrears. When the vote was taken 161 Government supporters—most of whom had not heard a word of the debate—trooped in the Government lobby, and the Labour resolution was defeated by 167 votes to 48.

So that although there is a slight prolongation of the date in which arrears are to be paid, the Government have virtually refused pensions, maternity, and Health Insurance benefits to thousands of the unemployed.

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MAKERS OF ALL KINDS OF PLAIN, RIBBED, AND FANCY HOSIERY, LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S UNDERWEAR.

Every Co-operative should give these goods a trial. Sure to give satisfaction. Made under the best conditions and supplied at Your Own Stores.

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TORY "PROGRESSIVES" DEFEATED.

CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR SUCCESSES IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The municipal election results in Sheffield came as a shock to the so-called "Progressive" Party. They had called "Progressive" Labour from power anticipated losing Labour from power for some time to come. The emphasis on the "Shilling of the rates" and the attempt to pilory the Labour Party attempt for refusing to accept "Progressive" Labour councillors should serve on the Public Assistance Committees, were listed as factors that would militate against Labour's success.

The Co-operative and Labour members, however, were able to demonstrate largely through the excellent booklet "Six Years of Labour Rule in Sheffield" that a forward and constructive field, that a forward and constructive field, had been opened during their period of office 1926-32. Vigorous efforts were made to counter the effects of this fine achievement, but the common-sense of the Sheffield electorate triumphed, with the result that Labour retained the whole of the seats previously held, and gained six others.

The Co-operative Party put forward three candidates. In Hillsborough, Mr. H. Mitchell, although unsuccessful, reduced the "Progressive" majority of 1,319 to 937, and increased the Labour vote in that area. In Neepsend, Councillor (Mrs.) A. Speight was returned unopposed; whilst in the Moor Ward Mr. W. Bancroft, who represented the Co-operative Party for many years on the City Council for Neepsend Ward, was returned by a majority of 1,256.

At the Co-operative Party executive meeting, held subsequently, great satisfaction was expressed at the general result, and particularly on the fine results achieved by the Co-operative candidates.

We very much regret that our friend, Mr. Harold Slack, was unsuccessful in Crooksmoor through the intervention of a Communist candidate. Mr. Slack is treasurer for the Hillsborough Co-operative Party, and put up a magnificent fight in the Crooksmoor Ward, coming very near to defeating one of the most popular of the "Progressive" candidates in the city. He is to be congratulated on securing 3,855 votes against so strong a candidate, and to be sympathized with in losing an election through the intervention of a candidate who must have known that he could not possibly achieve success either for himself or his party in such a ward.

THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL YEARLY DIVIDING FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

WALKLEY No. 1 LODGE.

Why not be independent of the effects of Government legislation and prepare for the needy time by joining the above society? No entrance fee. Auditors given to keep unemployed members in benefit. If interested, send name and enjoy musical evening at our open night on January 6th, 1934, in the lodge room at the Green Inn, Walkley (near Wood), or write the Secretary at 70, Malback Road, Walkley, for literature. Don't forget the date.

Everybody welcomed on January 8th, 1934.

PERFECT PROTECTION

during Winter's Bleak days—

"INTEGRITY"

BRAND

HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR

Saves Chills and Doctor's Bills

ONLY FROM YOUR CO-OPERATIVE STORES. Made by the Wigton Co-operative Hosiery Ltd., Paddock Street, Wigton.

THE NEW TORY SCARE.

CONSERVATIVES win elections, not by defending their own policy, but by defining their policy with bogies about Labour scoring voters with bogies about Labour policy. Their latest bogey is being put ready now: "Beware of a Socialist Dictatorship!" The idea is to feature Sir Stafford Cripps as the role of Lenin. Why? Because Cripps has said the next Labour Government will tolerate no interference with its work!

In 1924 a Labour Government was broken because snobs in the Foreign Office invented the "Red Letter" fersery; and MacDonald had not the courage to fight them.

In 1931 a Labour Government was broken because bankers dictated the terms on which this country should be ruled; and, again, MacDonald lacked the pluck to stand up to them.

All Cripps means is: "No more moneying bankers or by snobs monkeying bankers or by snobs monkeying the Foreign Office!" And about time, too!

Co-operative Movement Employs More Workers at Trade Union Rates.

SUCCESS DURING TRADE DEPRESSION.

DESpite a time of unparalleled trade depression and great unemployment the co-operative movement actually increased the number of workers on its pay roll from 265,037 in 1931 to 265,865 at the end of 1932, an increase of nearly 800. When it is recalled that virtually all these workers are trade unionists in receipt of at least the recognised trade union rate, one realises that the co-operative movement is making a practical contribution to the alleviation of a terrible problem.

Hallam Labour Party.

Miss G. COLEMAN

(Prospective Parliamentary Candidate) will address a PUBLIC MEETING at the Crooksmoor Vestry Hall On Sunday, December 10th, at 7 p.m., and at the Crooks Congregational Schoolroom On Monday, December 11th, at 7.30 p.m.
ELECTORS INVITED.

"S. & E." WEATHER STORM OF TRADE DEPRESSION.

INCREASED MILK SALES: NEW PORK FACTORY.

THE Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society's quarterly report, just issued, again demonstrates the stability of this institution. For in spite of the depression in the city (Sheffield has one of the highest Poor Rates in the country) there is only a small increase of less than 1 per cent. in sales over the corresponding quarter of last year.

In the dairy department there is a very considerable increase totalling 31,562 gallons, whilst the year's sales amount to no less than 948,591 gallons. The committee reports that they were compelled to raise the price of milk to 7d. per quart owing to the regulations of the Milk Marketing Board, which require that milk shall be sold at the prevailing rate of the district, and this was the price fixed by a majority of retailers.

It is interesting to note that the society is supplying forty-eight departments in thirty-seven schools with pasteurised milk in bottles containing one-third of a pint. Six thousand school children are using this milk, and the amount supplied exceeds 30,000 bottles per week.

There has been an increase in share capital in the society; an increase of membership; increase in the penny bank deposits; and an increase in the thrift club membership.

The new pork factory that has been erected at Archer-road is now producing a comprehensive range of cooked meats, hams, sausage, and other commodities. The factory is modelled on the latest designs, and equipped with the most modern machinery.

That the society continues to develop and to increase its range of services under present industrial conditions is a tribute to the co-operative system, and should be an incentive to non-co-operators to join up, as well as increased loyalty from existing members.

Worse than the Geddes Axe

JOE COMPTON

(Chairman, Trade Unions Congress, 1933).

"For the first time in modern England there has been a distinct and calamitous reversal of our social policy. Even in the days following the Geddes Axe the social services were never so curtailed as they have been in the past two years."

To appeal to Masculine Tastes . . .



HEADWEAR. Our new range for Autumn and Winter embraces the latest selection of sizes. Whether it is a Hat or Soft Fall, or a Cap, we guarantee to fit you to your entire satisfaction.

HARD FELTS. Silk lined, in various weights, 7/6 to 14/6
SOFT FELTS. A fine range of smart styles, 5/11 to 14/6
CAPS. A large selection of newest Tweeds, fitted with rubber peaks and leather bands. . . . 2/6 to 4/6

RAINCOATS. Our Special Offer, self-lined Slip-on Coats, 18/9 Others from . . . 28/9 to 63/-

WOOL GABARDINES, in the newest shades and designs with or without bell, from . . . 30/- Also . . . 39/6, 42/- to 84/-.

Suede Golf Jackets Blackstone Coats and Gulls
Altre in Sordella . . . 29/6
Altre in Sordella . . . 12/6

Trouser Presses.
Newest designs, 12/6, 16/6, and upwards.

DIVIDEND

last half-year 1/10 in the £



**IF THINGS WERE EVEN WORSE
YOU COULDN'T GRUMBLE AT**

this

Every housewife, no matter how careful she must be with her spending, should reflect that even if she were very rich, she could not buy another food so good, wholesome and healthful as Shredded Wheat—no matter what she paid. This splendid cereal—made from pure, whole wheat—supplies

**THE BEST OF
BREAKFASTS
COSTS BUT A
PENNY
A DAY**

the best of Breakfasts at a cost of barely a penny a day. Why not let your penny buy you this sustaining, natural food that meets every bodily need. It requires no cooking, being always ready to serve with milk, cream, honey or fruits. *Etiquette per Packet (U.K. only).*

SHREDDED WHEAT

MADE BY THE SHREDDED WHEAT CO. LTD, WILVYN GARDEN CITY, HEATS.

THINGS THAT CONCERN US ALL.

**"The Local Branch
of the C.W.S."**

SCARCELY a day goes past but we receive letters from friends who write of "their local branch of the C.W.S." or tell us they are "members of the C.W.S."

There are six million co-operators in this country, but no man or woman is "a member of the C.W.S." The pleasant co-operative shops in England's towns and villages are not branches of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

There are roughly a thousand retail co-operative societies, each having its own board of management and controlling its own branches. The six million co-operators are all members of one or other of these retail societies, which in turn are members of the C.W.S.

The C.W.S. manufactures honest articles at fair prices, and to make sure of getting co-operative goods, our friends should ask specially for "C.W.S. Productions" when shopping at their local society.



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

Bring the Kiddies
to
**"Moonshine
Land"**

at
The Arcade, Ecclesall Road.

HERE'S a land that will delight every boy and girl . . . a great, shining wonderland they will all love.

Toyland
IS OPEN!

with a delightful exhibition of NEW TOYS, NEW GAMES, NEW BOOKS, and everything that goes to make the kiddies' Christmas a real joy time. Walk round at your leisure and inspect.

ADMISSION FREE

There's a special stall of ADULT PARTY GAMES on the Second Floor.

Leaving behind our great City, the last link with familiar scenes in two modern villages on the way, and Mother and Father are permitted to look through the windows and see the through the wilderness, then on to the foot of the Hill, and a climb hither-thither rush into the Valley of Moonshine Land. Lo! here is Father Christmas, sitting in the Moon—his Christmas Man in the Moon, you the actual Man in the Moon, you the actual! And he has a present for every child.

GIFT 6D. each Adults Free TICKETS



FREE GIFTS

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**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,
AND FRIDAY.**

* Watch them carefully, and if your Share Number agrees with that given on any article, you can claim it immediately on production of your Share Book.

It's well worth your while—the average value of the gifts is 10s. (varying from 2s. to 30s.)

Get the Days down, and come as often as you can—you may be one of the lucky ones!



CHRISTMAS FOOD & GIFT SHOPPING at the B & C



THE CITY STORES is a happy place at Christmas time—no matter to which department you turn you will find just "that something" at the right price.

Preparations for the Christmas Dinner—the family gathering—a remembrance for every member of the family and for friends can all be found here in endless variety.

Good things for Christmas...



You can rely upon the excellent quality of our supplies—keen prices, too!

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Toys and Games
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PRIME FAT STOCK from the BUTCHERY DEPARTMENTS, CAKES AND PASTRIES from OUR OWN BAKERY, CHOICE FRUITS AND FLOWERS, PLUMP SELECTED TURKEYS, GEESE, DUCKS, AND CHICKENS, CHOCOLATES, CRACKERS, BISCUITS, IN GREAT VARIETY

MORE THAN EVER IT'S TO BE A PRACTICAL GIFT YEAR. . . . Some wise suggestions—

FOR THE HOME: *how about a . . .*

Coffee Table : Mirror : Fireside
Chair : Rug : Cushion - Pouffe
: Bookcase : Household and Fancy
Linens : Blankets : Down Quilt :
Bedspread : Lamp : Radiator : Clock.



FOR PERSONAL USE:
why not a . . .

Frock : Fur : Hosiery : Shoes
or Slippers : Gloves : Perfume
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.. and remember,
you are helping
yourself to more
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The CITY STORES, EXCHANGE STREET, AND ALL BRANCHES