



ATTACK ON AUSTRIAN WORKERS. PROMINENT CO-OPERATORS ARRESTED.



DR. KARL RENNEN.

Following the fearful upheaval in Austria, Dr. Karl Renner has been arrested.

That may not convey much to the ordinary readers of the daily newspapers; but Dr. Renner is a co-operative comrade known to many British co-operators who have had the opportunity of attending international co-operative conferences. He is also the chairman of the Austrian C.W.S., and one of the most brilliant statesmen Austria has produced since the war.

In the debacle of 1918, when Austria was on her knees, the nation turned to Dr. Renner, who, as a leader of the Socialist Party which controlled the Government, became the Austrian Chancellor.

Since 1918, Vienna has been governed by a Socialist corporation, and it has furnished the best example the Socialists have been able to present of a highly wise, benevolent, and efficient administration in the whole world.

Dolfuss, the present Dictator, did not like all this. He had to contend with the propaganda—sometimes violent—of the Italian Fascists, the German Nazis, and the Austrian Socialists, and he elected to take the help of the Italian Fascist organisation which masqueraded in Austrian clothing. The result has been a systematic provocation of the native patriotic Austrian social democrats which culminated in actual civil war with casualty lists exceeding a thousand.

Frau Emmy Freundlich (president, International Co-operative Women's Guild), who, like Dr. Renner, was a member of the Austrian Parliament before it was virtually suppressed, has been arrested and is imprisoned in Vienna.

Frau Freundlich is a singularly gifted woman. Her first appearance—certainly her first speech—at an International Co-operative Congress was at Glasgow in 1913, when she spoke in her mother tongue, and proceeded to translate her speech into French and English.

During the war she was the director

of the Austrian Food Ministry, and, at the first international co-operative gathering which she attended after that, some of her co-operative friends were shocked to see her having the wartime privations had wrought upon her. In 1929 she was elected to the Austrian Parliament as a Socialist, and remained a member, although for some time the Parliament has not been allowed to meet. So valuable was her work in the Food Ministry and as a Member of Parliament that even when her party was in opposition in 1927 she was appointed to represent the Austrian Government in the International Economic Conference of that year, and was one of its vice presidents.

Frau Freundlich had many ties with the co-operative leaders and co-operative guidesmen in many countries, and among none is she held in greater esteem than among British co-operators. Several times she took part in the English Guild Congresses, and last year she was one of the most honoured visitors at the Jubilee Congress of the English Guild. With a singular charm of manner, a readiness of speech in all the official languages of the Alliance, to which, we believe, she adds Italian, a vigorous debating power, and an encyclopaedic knowledge of social movements in almost every country, she made an excellent member of any democratic international conference.

It is more than ironic that she should be involved in any way in such an upheaval as Vienna has witnessed, for Frau Freundlich is an ardent advocate of international peace, and has been a member of the International Women's Disarmament Organisation at Geneva since the Disarmament Conference assembled first. It has been clearly the purpose of the Fascist Heimwehr and of Dr. Dolfuss (the Chancellor) to crush all with Socialist attachments, and following the example of Mussolini and Hitler, the heavy hand of armed force has come down on Frau Freundlich,



FRAU EMMY FREUNDLICH.

Dr. Renner, and others who stood out to the last for the maintenance of democratic rule in a nation which has been crushed ever since the so-called peace followed the Armistice of 1918.

Co-operators all over the world will sympathise with their two comrades, and sustain the hope that their safety will be unimpeded and that their liberty may be soon restored.

The Austrian co-operators have had to seek the help of British co-operators before—notably on the very eve of the Great War.

The International Co-operative Alliance has been in the closest touch with the happenings in Austria, and representations have been made through the usual (I.C.A.) channels for clemency for prisoners and in other ameliorative directions.

The Alliance is issuing an appeal for the Austrian co-operators. That appeal will be circulated in all countries—following a highly creditable war-time precedent—and it is not likely that there will be any overwelting. Presumably, the Co-operative Union in this matter will co-operate with the Alliance.

DEMOCRACY and freedom in Austria lie dead—foully assassinated by Dolfuss and his Fascist confederates. Against the armed power of ruthless and reactionary dictatorship... the workers offered heroic but, unalpinely, unavailing resistance when they were confronted with the final provocation which has been deliberately designed to bring about their virtual suppression. The Socialists still constituted by far the largest party in Vienna. As "The Times" stated: "It was, therefore, the deliberate purpose both of the Fascist Prince (Stadenberg) and of the uncompromising Major Fey to eliminate the Socialists just as they have been eliminated in Italy and Germany." Their doom was pronounced on the Sunday when Major Fey declared at a Heimwehr parade that "In the last two days I have made certain that Dolfuss is with us. Tomorrow we are going to clean up Austria."

On the morrow the cruel and shameful slaughter of the workers began. The "cleaning-up" was carried through with bullet and bayonet, machine gun and artillery, with fire, destruction, and death. Bloody dictatorship triumphed despite the desperate resistance of the workers.

To-day, the democratic constitution, democratic rights, freedom of working-class political and industrial organisation, freedom of working-class political action in national and local affairs, freedom of their Press, and respect for their civil liberties have been destroyed.

Thousands of workers have been killed, wounded, or arrested. The prisons in Austria are crowded, not with criminals, but with MEN who dared to resist the dictatorial usurpation of the people's rights. Hundreds of families are now homeless because of the criminal shelling of those great piles of workmen's flats which, as even the "Morning Post" proclaimed, "were the impressive monuments" of the long period of energetic Socialist administration in Vienna. A large number of working-class households have lost fathers, husbands, and sons, and to be re-assured must now be added destitution. Homeless, workless, penniless, the immediate future for masses of Austrian working class men, women, and children is one of cruel distress and suffering.

WORKING-CLASS TENEMENTS IN VIENNA.



Above is a photograph of one of the working-class tenement dwelling blocks built by the Municipal Corporation in Vienna. There are several estates planned on these lines, and have been bombarded by Fascist and Nazi troops under the control of Dr. Dolfuss, the present Austrian Dictator.

CO-OPERATION UP-TO-DATE.

"The Co-operators' Year Book, 1934" - Sixpence.
"The People's Year Book, 1934" - Two shillings.

The former volume is published by the Co-operative Productive Federation, Leicester, and in addition to particulars of trade and employment, contains a number of special articles.

The present issue has Sir Stafford Cripps as a contributor, on the subject of "The Taxation of Co-operative Societies," and very clearly expresses his opinion. But this particular volume is well known in the guilds, so that any extended description is really unnecessary.

"THE PEOPLE'S YEAR BOOK," is a much larger volume, of course. It is the "Whittakers' Almanack" of the movement, and is published by the Co-operative Wholesale Societies, English and Scottish. The type and illustrations are exceedingly good. It contains all the essential statistics, and is also an able review of the year's developments, both nationally and internationally.

In 1913 there were 2,387 retail societies, and that number slowly and continuously decreased until the last year under review, namely, 1932, when 1,171 societies were in existence. But evidently the number has in part been reduced by mergers, in addition to which the total volume of trade has increased enormously, as the following will show:-

Capital.	Sales.	Net Surplus.
1913	1913	1913
£2,661,795 ..	£3,590,374 ..	12,851,393
1932	1932	1932
147,044,460 ..	201,221,581 ..	24,955,582

Employees.	Salaries Paid.
1913	1913
103,542 ..	5,093,943
1932	1932
189,127 ..	23,146,987

It is a significant fact, too, that the membership during the same period has increased from 2,578,548 to 6,760,432.

WAGES.

Another notable feature is the increase of wages and salaries as compared with the increase of staff. There are not quite twice as many workers in 1932 as in 1913, but they get nearly five times as much in wages and salaries! The "Year Book" itself draws attention to the weekly wage for all employees was £2 9s. 8d., and, in 1932, it had become £2 13s. 4d.

TAXATION.

Co-operators will discover that Holland and Finland (for example) are having taxation battles against private-trading interests. It is interesting, too, to note that a Viennese supporter contributes an article on "Overvaluing Taxation on Consumers' Co-operative Movement in Austria." There can be no doubt that the whole Dictatorship movement on the Continent quite definitely is antagonistic to co-operation; that it is indeed a movement primarily in defence of property as against the people.

FORTY YEARS.

Our old friend Blatchford has an article comparing 1893 with 1933, and Hartley Withers writes on "Money and Finance." These are perhaps the outstanding features in the review of articles. "Co-operative Overseas" is a full statistical record of international co-operative progress in other countries. A Nazi chit, we learn, has been given control of the whole co-operative movement in Germany, but promises have been given that no harm is intended. Well, time will show!

WOMEN'S NOTES.

By GRACE COLMAN (Prospective Labour Candidate, Hullam Division).

The Government has successfully resisted attempts in the House of Commons to induce it to provide larger allowances for the children of the unemployed, and the Minister of Agriculture has made a statement on milk policy which may result in the supply of cheaper milk for school children. I make no apology, therefore, for returning this month to the subject of food.

FOOD AND HEALTH.

I pointed out last month that even the small weekly expenditure on food which is considered by a committee of doctors to be the minimum necessary for the maintenance of health cannot be reached by many thousands of families, of unemployed as well as of employed workers. It is this situation, affecting the health of the peoples, especially the children? Supporters of the Government hailed with complacent satisfaction the statement of our chief medical officer (Sir George Newman) in his report for 1932, "On the State of the Public Health," that there is no evidence "of physical deterioration in recent years owing to social circumstances." They did not, however, quote his further statement that in medical circles "there is an undercurrent of foreboding as to the possibility of prolonged under-nourishment of women and children." Neither have they noticed figures collected by a committee of doctors, "The Children's Fund, showing, for example, that the proportion of children with subnormal nutrition, was in 1932, 9 per cent. in Leeds, 17 per cent. in Newcastle, 22 per cent. in Postlebridge; or reports such as that of the Medical Officer of Health for Stockton, that "the ill-effects of deficient quality of nutrition are widespread" amongst children.

The trouble today is not so much that children are not having enough food as that they are not in many cases having the right kind of food, especially milk, because their parents cannot afford it; and the effects will be seen in lessened resistance to disease, in a stunting of growth, in "deficiency" diseases, such as rickets. While, therefore, the evidence of an actual increase in malnutrition is already serious enough (in spite of the Minister of Health's statement in the House of Commons on May 8th last, that "the condition of the children has not really been affected by unemployment"), the full results of poor food will not show themselves at once.

WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?

So that the debt on the unemployment fund shall be repaid it has released an amendment to the Unemployment Bill, supported by some of its own "National" M.P.s, as well as by the Labour members, that the allowance for children of the unemployed shall be raised from 3s. to 3s. 6d. each. It has also resisted an amendment to the effect that at least 3s. a week for each child shall be allowed to the unemployed on the least test. This attitude is taken up it should be noted, at a time when the Government is using every effort to raise the price of food, and it would be useful if women's organisations in Sheffield would ask their Members of Parliament whether they support this policy.

On the other hand there has been some response to the proposal, backed up by organisations representing a very large number of working women, that the huge surplus of milk which will be available in the spring and summer, shall be used to provide free or cheap milk for all children, both those at school (including holiday camps) and those below school age. In February 1934 the Minister of Agriculture made a statement in the House of Commons on the Government's milk policy, which included, amongst other things, the promise of a contribution of not more than £500,000 a year for two years to a milk publicity fund, the grant to be dependent on the submission of an approved programme continuing provision for the supply of

(Continued in next column.)

HILLSBOROUGH DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY.

FEBRUARY appears destined to be one of the most critical months politically in February, 1933, saw the rise of Nazism culminating in the burning of the Reichstag, and this year the month has seen the perpetration of an awful crime in political history: The Fascist attack on Vladimir, the most efficiently-organized city in the world—resulting in the massacre of its Socialist administrators and nearly a thousand of our Allies.

February is indeed a black month. But there is one bright spot—I refer to the Hillsborough Divisional Labour Party, which has shown remarkable progress this month. The annual meeting on February 7th marked the ushering in of a new era. Membership increase was reported. Mr. T. E. Eaton (secretary, Hillside Trades and Labour Council) was elected president; Mr. A. C. Meekie was re-elected secretary; and Mr. L. Jervis treasurer.

WALKLEY WARD.

The meeting decided on the formation of a Walkley Ward organisation, the first meeting of which took place on February 14th. A splendid attendance was recorded, and the following officials were elected: Mr. L. Jervis, chairman; Mr. P. Hargreaves, secretary; and Mr. H. Wilson, treasurer. Mr. Wilson is a new comrade who is rapidly proving his worth. A collecting scheme is being put into operation. Anyone desirous of joining should attend the meetings, held every Thursday at 7:30 p.m., in the Sherwood Hall. A meeting on the second Wednesday in each month when the City Council report is given.

SUNDAY EVENING MEETINGS.

The Sunday evening meetings continue to show marked improvement. February 12th, the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander delighted the area in a splendid address. "A. V." as he is popularly called, was his usual brilliant self. The "Carion" choir sang some excellent hymns. At this meeting a resolution was sent protesting against the continued imprisonment of the three Bulgarians—Dimitroff, Popoff, and Vassiloff.

On the 18th, Mr. Frank Dawtry gave an interesting address on "The Pacifist's Way out of the World Chaos." The Sunday evening meetings are to be continued until the end of April. An attractive list of speakers has been arranged. Residents in the district are given a cordial invitation to attend these meetings, which are held in the Sherwood-road Hall at 7:30 p.m.

REVOLT AGAINST FASCISM IN HOLLAND.

PEOPLE RALLYING TO SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

"In every district more people have been coming to our meetings than in the tensest moments of an election campaign," writes Deputy "Het Volk," a recent issue which is "Het Volk," the Dutch Socialist paper. "In large and small centres alike," he continues, "we cannot find halls large enough to hold the men and women who come out to join us in the fight against Fascism. A new feeling of strength is permeating our party, and a large section of the working class. Numbers of people from other classes are joining us in cordial sympathy in order to make a public profession of their hostility to dictatorship and their love of democracy."

(Continued from previous column.)

milk to schools at reduced rates. This is useful so far as it goes, but it does not go far enough, especially in its failure to do anything for the children below school age. When details are available we shall be able to judge the value of the scheme better, but in any case we can hardly congratulate the Government on its efforts to safeguard the children against the danger of permanent injury to their health.

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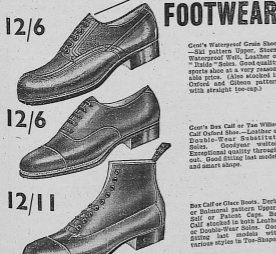
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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Division, under the new secretaryship of Mrs. B. A. Barringer, held a business meeting on March 2nd, and recording with pleasure the election of another Co-operative representative on the City Council in the person of Mr. J. H. Bingham from the Attercliffe Ward. Regret was expressed that the election caused so little interest, but there is no doubt that Attercliffe will have another worthy and capable exponent of Co-operative and Labour principles on the City Council.

The next divisional meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27th, at 7.30 p.m., in the Attercliffe Co-operative Institute, Attercliffe Common. Speaker to be announced by circular.

A further meeting will be held on April 25th, at the Garth-road Co-operative Institute, when Mr. A. Ballard (the party organizer) will speak on "The Place of the Co-operative Party in the Democratic Movement."

BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Divisional Party have elected the secretary (Mrs. F. Ward) and the delegate to the national conference to be held at Glasgow at Hunter. The next divisional meeting will be held on Saturday, March 17th, in the Co-operative Institute, Bealhouse-road, Shiregreen. Councillor C. T. Richardson will give the City Council report; and reports of delegates to various conferences will also be given. The meeting will be followed by a social.

A further meeting will be held at the Rothay-road Guildroom, Grimsthorpe, on Saturday, April 7th, when the secretary will give a report of the Glasgow Conference.

Membership fees for 1934 are now due, and should be forwarded to the secretary, Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sixty-seven, Shiregreen.

BURNGRAVE.

Mr. Burgess to Women's Section continues to hold well-attended meetings. February 7th, an interesting evening was spent dealing with reports of various conferences at which the section had been represented. 14th, Mrs. Over was the speaker in lieu of Councillor (Mrs.) Canning, who was unable to attend. 21st, an enjoyable social was held; and on the 28th, Mrs. Yelland's report of the Sheffield "Safety First" in the Home Committee, proved interesting. Programme for March: 7th, Miss Harvey (headmistress of the nursery school) will be the speaker; 14th, City Council report by Councillor (Mrs.) Canning; 21st, a social; and on the 28th, Miss J. Howard (secretary Pre-School Child Committee) will be the speaker. Meetings held every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in the Burngrave Vestry Hall. All Burngrave women cordially invited. Secretary, Mrs. Yelland, 25, Catherine-road.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough meetings, held in the Co-operative Guildroom, Middlewood-road, have been well attended during February. Councillor A. Oates, Councillor J. Gill, and Mr. J. P. Lamb (chief librarian for Sheffield) all drew good crowds, showing a real revival in interest.

Programme for March: 1st, play-reading; 7th, fancy dress social and dance; 8th, speaker, Councillor W. Astbury, J.P., 15th, Mr. A. E. Butcher; 22nd, Councillor E. Gandy; and 29th, cinema lecture of W.S. Blinn. The Women's Section meetings during

February have included an address by Mr. W. H. Blackburn (secretary, Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society); and a speech from the National Safety First speaker from the National Safety First Association.

Programme for March: 5th, social; 12th, Mr. H. Bedford will continue his series of addresses on "Dickens, the Reformer"; 19th, Mr. W. Berry will lecture on "World Commodities"; and on the 26th, the same speaker will give a "Landscape" lecture, "Ship Canals of the World."

We are pleased to report that the secretary (Mrs. Woolf), is now commencing, and hopes to return to her duties in a few weeks' time. We are asked to thank the many friends who have inquired as to her recovery and who have sent tokens of good wishes.

NEEPSEND.

The Neepsend Section went all out for the trade propaganda meeting that was addressed by the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander in the Rutland Hall on February 9th. Although the meeting was held under the auspices of the educational department, the Co-operative Party played its part so effectively that the Rutland Hall was crowded. Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., gave an interesting address, and the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander spoke on the advantages of co-operative trading, dealing at length with the capitalist Press attacks against the movement.

The section has arranged a business meeting for Wednesday, March 7th; on the 12th the monthly Council report will be given by Councillor J. A. Longden. Both meetings commence at 8 p.m.

We regret to report that Mr. W. Gill, an active worker in this area, has died quite suddenly. Mr. Gill played a useful part in both municipal and Parliamentary elections, and will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Co-operative Party we offer our sincere sympathy to the relatives in their sad bereavement.

The Women's Section have held four successful gatherings during the past month. On the 5th a social was held; 12th, the meeting heard interesting reports from delegates to various conferences; 17th, Mrs. S. E. Ager (director, Brightside and Carbrook Society) was the speaker; and on the 26th, Councillor (Mrs.) Speight gave the City Council report. The bulk competition will take place on March 12th. Most of the members have entered this interesting competition, which is now in its third year.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

WELL-ATTENDED meetings have been held under the auspices of the Southey and Norwood Section during February. New members are being admitted and old members are rapidly renewing their fees for 1934. Mr. A. Ballard gave a most educative address on "International Co-operation" on February 7th—an address calculated to inspire our people to work for the return of a Co-operative and Labour Government at the earliest possible moment. On the 14th Alderman Hawnt gave a most detailed and interesting report of the discussion which followed, showing the keen interest of the Southey members in the affairs of their city. On the 27th an enjoyable social evening was spent by the distributive staff of the "Sheffield Co-operative." Mr. Ballard (the editor) attended and paid a tribute to the work of the volunteers whose keen interest was arousing co-operators and

others to a sense of their responsibilities. The president (Mr. R. Fisher) spoke of the usefulness of this journal as a medium for propaganda and education, and hoped the time would soon come when every house in Sheffield would receive a copy. February 21st, the new social committee ran their first social, which was very successful.

A pea and pie supper and social has been arranged for Wednesday, March 22nd. Tickets are now on sale at 4d. each. Secretary, Mr. G. A. Helder, 1, Crowder-close.

The Women's Section, which meets on Wednesday afternoons in the Guildroom, on February 22nd, has held successful meetings during the month.

Programme for March: 7th, Mrs. Astbury will be the speaker; 14th, Mr. E. G. Lyon (League of Nations Union); 21st, Mr. A. Ballard (party organizer); and 28th, Mrs. Tryner (director, Brightside and Carbrook Society).

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section had a crowded meeting in the Cemetery-road Guildroom on February 18th. Mrs. H. Mitchell spoke on "Women and Freedom"—conference reports were also given.

The next meeting will be held on March 17th at 7.45 p.m. in the Cemetery-road Guildroom; speaker, Mr. W. H. Hunt.

The section is looking forward to the new premises in Napier-street that are to be opened in the near future as an opportunity for increasing the membership, and if possible holding weekly instead of monthly meetings.

The Women's Section, which meets every Thursday afternoon in the Mount Tabor Classroom, Wellington-street, have increased the membership during February. On February 5th the annual tea and social was held, and proved a good success. During the evening the president outlined the immense amount of work which the party had done, and still more that could be done with an increased membership during 1934. She expressed the view that the excellent opportunity for social and educational services through the medium of the party should not be missed by co-operative women.

The conference reports have been of great interest and keenly debated; the proposed constitution for the South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Federation of the Co-operative Party has been approved by the section, and they have decided to affiliate. Alderman Smith has addressed one of the "gatherings during the month under review."

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THE CONSUMERS' PARTY.

By F. A. BROAD

(Prospective Co-operative Candidate for Edmonton.)

The Co-operative Party has come to stay, and if its right purpose is understood and made clear, it will take a leading part in the political life of the nation in the near future.

The whole effort of organised capital to-day is concentrated against the interests of the consumer. The great mass of the people are threatened with a lowering of their standard of life by an all-round raising of prices. The clear purpose of the present National Government is to create monopolies, and restrict markets, in order to enable the profiteer to dictate his own terms. The Co-operative Party stands first in the field as the champion of the consumer—the wage spender. Its place is side by side with the Labour Party, which came into being to represent the interests of the producer—the wage earner.

There need not, and there must not, be any question of rivalry between these two parties, for one is the complement of the other. Each has its part to play, its experience and personnel to call upon, its own special contribution to make.

The co-operative movement is the great obstacle to the monopolist. He regards its principle of sharing the surplus as a diversion of the profits that he claims should be his. The movement is directly attacked by unfair taxation, but the greater menace is

the steps that are being taken, with and without the authority of law, to restrict supplies, to prevent expansion, and to abolish the payment of the surplus dividend.

The first task of the Co-operative Party is to defend the movement from these attacks, and to secure the right vote may show that the co-operative force of the private trader.

It is, however, on the wider plane mission. That mission is to represent the general interests of the consuming public. That is the part dictated to it by its ideals, its principles, and its experience.

The problem of to-day is the problem of distribution. The solution is to increase the power of the consumer. The co-operative movement itself is an organisation of consumers, and its development has been based upon its distributive system.

The policy it has followed is the only one that offers any solution to the economic dilemma that society is in to-day.

How simple and obvious it is. Ascertain the requirements of the people—household necessities, stores, warehouses, factories, and transport. Give the best wages and conditions to the workers. Charge each member sufficient to cover the cost of the goods and his fair share of any surplus, or use it for the common good.

Under such a system there can be no question of over-production; for the purchasing power of the mass would increase at exactly the same rate as the increase of production. The surplus would go back into producing power.

Under the old individualistic and competitive system it was the once great Liberal Party that was the champion of the interests of the consumer. Its principle of Free Trade and cheapness at any cost belong to the past. The need to-day is for ordered and regulated industries.

Our choice is between private monopolies and democratic co-operation. In the trustified State no struggle for higher wages can raise the standard of life of the masses, while the capitalist can dictate prices.

It is to often true that the workers are divided as wage earners. They are even prepared to back their employers' demand for subsidies, tariffs, quotas, or restricted markets, regardless of the interests of the workers as a whole, in the hope that some small share of the spoils may eventually find a way into their wage packets.

The Co-operative Party has its appeal to the workers as a whole, and on a basis where there is no division of interests. There is no question of craft, grade, sex, or status when they attend their incomes. They all stand to lose equally when prices rise against them.

The Co-operative Party meets the need of this time for the political representation of the great consuming public. Its principles offer the only solution to the economic difficulties of our society on democratic lines.

Our seven millions of members have already accepted our economic methods, and it is the task before us to lead them to express their co-operative principles in their citizenships.

It is the historic part of the party to lead the people of the nation away from the trustified servile State that threatens them, and into the democratic Co-operative Commonwealth.

CO-OPERATION AND THE EMPIRE.

The London office of the High Commissioner of Canada has just issued the following statement:—

"The Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries, with a membership of 99,000, is the largest co-operative organisation in Canada engaged in the manufacture and marketing of dairy products."

"Co-operative organisation forms an integral part of the economic and fabric of Canadian agriculture, and is practised extensively in every province of the Dominion."

"The first co-operative organisation in Canada was formed in 1861."

LIFE OF CO-OPERATIVE SERVICE.

RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLOR DIMBERLINE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. DIMBERLINE, J.P. (President, Brightside and Carbrook Society), is retiring from the position in March under the age limit rule.

Mr. Dimberline's service for the society dates from 1894, first as a member of the education committee, subsequently as its chairman, and later as its secretary. In the year 1900 he became a member of the management committee, and in 1905 was elected president, having held this office ever since.



Councillor J. DIMBERLINE, J.P.

Mr. Dimberline has held many other important positions in the movement, both locally and nationally. He is a member of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union, and a member of the National Executive of the Co-operative Party, and a director of the Co-operative Trading Society.

He was created a magistrate in 1924, and elected to the Sheffield City Council in 1929 for Darvall.

Mr. Dimberline's work for the movement in Sheffield has been of an outstanding character. There is no doubt that it was his optimistic outlook and determination that resulted in the erection of the splendid central premises at Exchange-street. Proposals were on foot on several occasions to sell the site long before the building took place. Mr. Dimberline retained through very difficult times his belief in the possibility of this central development. We prize that his enthusiasm has been fully justified.

We wish Mr. and Mrs. Dimberline health and happiness in their well-earned retirement, and trust that although Mr. Dimberline does not sit in the presidential chair he will be associated with the many in every way possible for very many years.

SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES' PROGRESS.

The Brightside and Carbrook Society's last yearly report to be considered at the meeting to be held on Thursday, March 15th, is a very encouraging statement, showing an increase in the weekly trade from £26,712 to £26,985. Attention is also drawn to the fact that the trade propaganda campaign is beginning to have effect. Membership has increased by 1,366, and the present membership stands at 60,672. An increase is also reported in the 3rd club, and it is expected that the total savings through this medium will amount to the astounding figure of £80,000 by the end of the year.

The total divisible surplus amounts to no less a sum than £58,365 17s. 1d. for six months' trading. When it is remembered that this surplus is only accounted for after provision has been made for interest, £13,349 15s. 8d., depreciation, £5,983; death benefit fund, £2,905; it will be seen that a clear profit available for distribution amongst the members actually increases the spending power of Sheffield people in an effective and practical way. Since spending power is the basis of power creating demand, it is obvious that the co-operative system is calculated better to keep industry active than private trade, because private trade pays its surplus to a few people who cannot possibly spend all they receive.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The directors of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society, in issuing their 24th quarterly report, announce that the sales for the year total £1,083,520 8s. 8d., and represent an increase over the previous year's turnover. The sales of pasteurized milk have exceeded half-a-million gallons in the half-year, which is an increase of 59,595 gallons over the corresponding period.

The directors recorded a dividend of 2s. 10d. in the pound, making a total amount of £51,205 16s. 8d. The society's membership shows a net increase of 1,744 during the year, the present membership standing at 48,866. The first mention in this report marks the close of nearly sixty years of the society's history, the date on which it was registered being April 22nd, 1874. The first members' roll of the society contained 10 names, and the directors state that the survivor of this small band of pioneers, and the oldest member of the society—Mr. A. F. Fletcher—is still alive.

It is clear from the reports that both societies are on the upgrowth in membership and trade, demonstrating that misguided Press attacks really act as boomerangs to our competitors on whose behalf the Press lords profess to be fighting.

KEEP THAT Health Smile IN HIS EYES



YOUTH! That is the time of physical growth and development. It is the time when food is all-important. Every mother should see that her children get a full share of Nature's finest form of nourishment—Shredded Wheat. This is pure whole wheat, rich in Vitamin "B" and containing all the bran. It feeds the young system healthily, promotes strength, energy and straight limbs. Equipment per packet (in U.K.).

ON WHOLE WHEAT



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

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HAVELOCK WORKS, KETTERING.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

The above association has been formed to develop the community life of the estates. A petition signed by 2,000 residents of the Southey and Norwood estates asking for a building for a community centre was presented to the City Council last October, and a deputation was informed by the Estates Committee that whilst they were unable to recommend anything at the present juncture, they would give the matter their serious reconsideration after they had had the opportunity of judging the success of the centre on the Manor Estate.

Meanwhile, a number of the activities which will later find their home in the proposed centre have been started in the Longley Council School. The Gardening Guild meets on the first Tuesday in each month at 7.45 p.m., and has arranged a programme of lectures on topical gardening subjects. The Coral Society meets every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. The Debating Society was inaugurated with a debate versus the Y.M.C.A. Literary and Debating Society, on February 6th.

Lectures and entertainments are being organised from time to time, and it is hoped soon to form a sports club, a dramatic society, and a citizens' information bureau.

The chairman is Mr. Ken W. Cowling, and the secretary Mr. Reg. Hulley, 6, Herries-drive.

POLITICS AND TRADE

There is a tendency in some quarters to blame recent newspaper attacks on co-operative trading on the introduction of politics into the movement. The argument runs: Had co-operative societies confined their activities solely to trading they would not have aroused magnates. A variant of the newspaper men's, with a very familiar ring, is the plea that politics cannot be mixed with the trade, and it is the attempt to do so that is fostering opposition to co-operative trade.

Both arguments are unsound. Had there been no Co-operative Party, Lords Beerbrook and Kothersheim would still have raged as furiously as ever against everything co-operative. The root cause of the ever-present hostility to co-operation is not political. It is economic. Co-operative membership and trade have grown enormously since the advent of co-operative politics. Not necessarily because of or in spite of politics, but simply through the natural expansion of a movement which the war demonstrated to millions to be an ever-present defence against the profiteer.

That expansion of co-operation has coincided with a general contraction of capitalist enterprise, and very significantly with an increasing attention by High Finance to the possibilities of retail distributive trade. The drying up of profits in the older heavy and export industries has been largely responsible for diverting money into those trades catering for the vast demands for food, clothing, and other domestic necessities. Everywhere in those trades big business has found itself confronted by the ubiquitous co-operative society, guilty of the cardinal sin of eliminating profit, and of fencing off from the toll of the profit-taker hundreds of millions of annual trade.

It has found co-operative societies expanding coming out of the back streets into the main shopping thoroughfares, winning new members and new trade through the efficiency of their principles and their service. It has

become seriously alarmed at their hold on masses of consumers, and above all it is perturbed at the success with which mutual trading has been applied in one direction after another.

Those circumstances are the explanation of the virulent anti-co-operative crusades of the last few years. The small trader is the cannon fodder which Big Business uses in its campaigns. The entry of co-operators into politics has no direct bearing on that hostility. Meanwhile, they are quite willing to use politics as another stick with which to beat the co-operative dog, and in the process to confuse the real point at issue. We hope no co-operator will be deceived, for one of the movement's greatest needs is not less politics, but the erection of stronger political bulwarks against unfair legislation.

74 HOURS A WEEK

'DAILY EXPRESS' AND 'DAILY MAIL' SILENT ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THE PRIVATE SHOPS.

The "Daily Express" and the "Daily Mail" never dream of running a campaign to improve the wages and working conditions of workers in the private distributive trades. Why?

GOVERNMENTAL inquiries in recent years have disclosed that, outside co-operative services, trade unionism among distributive workers is negligible, and the unions have, in fact, very few agreements and very limited ability to influence employers, except with the co-operative societies.

It may be safely estimated that, outside co-operative services, not one shop worker in fifty, taking the country as a whole, is a member of a trade union!

Employers have been able to impose whatever terms they wished, and in particular have engaged large numbers of juniors for employment, badly paid at that, of a purely blind-alley character.

Educational authorities have latterly directed attention to the grave dangers of this course.

EXCESSIVE HOURS IN PRIVATE SHOPS.

As regards hours outside co-operative services, the recent report of the Select Committee on Shop Assistants gives many examples of extraordinarily long hours being worked, and the only statutory limitation at present in operation is that the hours of young people under eighteen may not exceed seven-and-a-half weekly (meal intervals included). This may be compared with the co-operative forty-eight or forty-four.

It would be safe to say that, notably in the butchering, confectionery, and café trades, and to a large extent in all the distributive trades, the working of sixty hours or more weekly is commonplace, and overtime is rarely, if ever, paid for as it is in the co-operative service.

MILK ROUNDSMEN AND LAUNDRY GIRLS.

In the Trade Board trades, where their competitors are subject to some legal obligation as to rates and conditions, co-operative societies have shown their willingness substantially to plus the rates so payable.

For example, boot repairers in co-operative service enjoy various passages ranging up to 30 per cent. on the existing Trade Board minima (for example, Ecles has just agreed on a passage of 27 1/2 per cent.). These boot repairers also enjoy the advantages of holidays with pay and of superannuation opportunities.

Co-operative milk roundsmen are paid, in many areas, from 2s. to 12s. weekly above the Trade Board minima, and are also given wages during sickness and holidays with pay.

The majority of co-operative laundry girls are paid 3s. weekly, against the Trade Board figure of 2s. 6d., and are granted privileges as to holidays, &c.

We could multiply examples to show that, in the organised or Governmentally regulated trades, co-operative labour policy has been generous by comparison with the obligations under the law or existing trade union agreements.

It is unfortunately the fact that a substantial proportion of the men and women engaged in the distributive trades are working under such conditions of low wages and long hours.

This was the statement made to us by Mr. J. Hallworth (general secretary, National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers).

While the co-operative societies and a number of other reputable employers have entered into agreements with this union, Mr. Hallworth went on to say a large number of private concerns engaged in the distributive trades have not

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 3 x 3 " " " 72/6
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INLAIN : do " 2/6; 3/3; 4/-
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 Suitable for class fitting work.

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WE STOCK ALL THE POPULAR MAKES OF Electric Vacuum Cleaners :
FOR HIRE 18 gns. 4/- per day.

DIVIDEND AGAIN
1/10 in the £ !!

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 THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

ECOLLESALL ROAD.

Sheffield Co-operative Party's Fifth Annual Trip.

Excursion to the Cornish Riviera and Plymouth
Saturday, June 23rd, 1934.

Preliminary Programme :
 Leave Sheffield Victoria Station (L.N.E.R.) 8.20 a.m., Friday, June 22nd. Breakfast on train. Arrive PENZANCE 7.30 a.m. Morning motor coach drive via Marazion (for St. Michael's Mount), Portlithwaite, Helston, Treowarren Drive, Gweek, Constantine, and Falmouth, Looehead at Falmouth Pavilion, Falmouth. Afternoon walk on the River Fal. Visit to Truro Cathedral. Tea at Truro, then train to Plymouth. Evening in Plymouth, leaving 10.20 p.m. Supper on train. Arrive SHEFFIELD 6.30 a.m., Sunday, June 24th. Complete tour over 700 miles travel. Cost for the whole excursion (including four meals as above), 37s.

Booking fees must be paid in order to enable us to guarantee accommodation. Intending visitors should forward deposit of 7s. 6d. not later than Saturday, April 28th; final payment to be made not later than Saturday, June 2nd.

Bookings are limited to those subscribing to the Co-operative Party under the voluntary membership scheme. Non-members forwarding deposit should include 6d. for membership of the local Co-operative Party, when membership cards will be forwarded in return.

APPLICATION FORM.
 Excursion to the Cornish Riviera, June 23rd, 1934.
 To Mr. A. Ballard, Secretary, Sheffield Co-operative Party, 17, Bumb-street, Sheffield.

Kindly book..... seat(s), for which I enclose booking fee(s) of.....
 *and membership fee(s) of.....
 of..... Address.....
 Name..... For non-members.

LADIES', GIRLS' and BOYS' FOOTWEAR.

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 MADE UNDER TRADE UNION CONDITIONS.
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Spring, sweet harbinger of sunny days, is very near—and you, like nearly every other woman, wanting new things for yourself and the home.

THE CITY STORES at this time is brimful of good suggestions — at economical prices.

Whether you are looking for a new Spring Outfit—a new idea in furnishings in bright new floor coverings, Curtains, Covers, &c., a smart material for that new Coat or Dress... not forgetting really good footwear—you'll find all to your liking at the **CITY STORES and Branches.**

MANNEQUIN PARADES

—What will YOU have this Spring?

The smartest of the new models are being displayed in a series of delightful Parades to be held in the Fashion Salons, City Stores, on—

Tuesday, March 14th, at 3 and 5.45 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14th, at 10.45 a.m., 3 and 5.45 p.m.

Friday, March 16th, at 10.45 a.m., 3 and 5.45 p.m.

- THIS IS "OPPORTUNITY MONTH"—
- HAVE YOU SPENT YOUR 2/6?
- It may mean a valuable price in our GREAT FREE COMPETITION!
- 2/6 must be won! Ask for leaflet now!
- YE OLDE CASTLE RESTAURANT, City Stores, Exchange Street, is a happy thought for Lunch or Tea.

BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK

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SLIM CLEARANCE - PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.

VIENNESE EXAMPLE.

An inspection of what are called housing estates for the working class, none with the fact that in another fifty years they will be looked upon as the slums of today. In point of size, quality, and design they are probably the product of a capitalist age that has starved itself of land, money, and ideas. They are cheap monuments of cheapness in every sense upon his income, when allowance has been made for the number of people he has to keep wolf in 'n sheep's clothing that is not a good method. It gives advantages to poor people in occupation houses, but *defers it to those in future years*. It changes the community with the deficit, and this is the worst property system. Whatever advantage is given to the poor—and

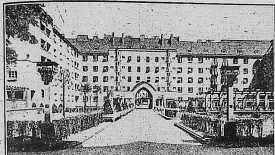
for all practical purposes, the backyard of the Grand Hotel. Lines and frontages must be introduced. There must be spaces adequate to the building. Modern methods must be used. There must be no "slum" for example, to be a slum and "slum" houses. There must be the War Memorial stands, but all the same we must not have one.

VIENNA.

Now the great achievement in city housing up-to-date is undoubtedly that of Vienna. Even the "Morning Post" is favourable to that view. And if the realising forces of Sheffield are to cooperate, there must be far more courage, larger ideas, and more design than has hitherto been the case. The plan that both the architect and the High School will have to be concerned in, is the scheme for the West-End. The pictures on this page show what can be done—has been done, indeed, in Vienna.

SPREAD OF POPULATION.

At present, the central square mile of Sheffield accommodates 250,000 people on a few estates. If it were all cleared, and occupied by houses at the rate of



Tenement Buildings, showing approach from street.

the best that can be said of them is that they are the result of a social conscience to express itself under conditions that deny a social conscience. You cannot have either private enterprise or a "bright communal enterprise" in land, and buildings and at the same time have people prosper. The "bright" and "communal" property tax has not been introduced in any form on a scale of a particular kind—must be done by the local authorities. The plan of the 20's is being cleared and replaced by the plan of the 30's, better, of course, but better by 100 years hence.

RENTS.

One of the results is that people who live within the central square mile of the city go three, four, or five miles out, with one fare every day, and a rent perhaps twice as much as before. The poorer class of the community, as usual, being the most heavily exploited.

It is grappling with the problem of differential rents on its corporate estates. That is to say, the amount of rent to pay particular tenement will

they need many—must not discriminate in favour of a few among the poor.

HOUSES IN THE CITY.

Some of the disposed tenants, however, prefer to remain in the city. It is essential to have in no sense a certain amount of housing accommodation should not be provided in the centre of cities. But must not be confined to certain standards.

Buildings of any kind whatever within the city should in future conform to a certain standard. The most important scheme, the main lines of which could be prepared in a week. It should be based on the plan of the central Sheffield "lay-out" of 200 years hence. It will accommodate 200,000 people in the city. City Hall and the large buildings (leaving in a few main streets) being permanently reserved for buildings that may never be built, in order that general architectural design, and general architectural design, might be the building of city as a whole. For instance, the City Hall should be permanently left in its site,



A Communal Laundry.

to be to the west, it would only provide houses for 20,000. That number of houses is not available, because of necessary shops, public buildings, and works of a character which are likely to remain. In any case, only a matter of 20,000 at most could be accommodated in two-storey high tenements, built in a city.

If money is to be taken off, let us write it off the building, and not the land. The Co-operative Commonwealth does not consist of little new houses in the face of little new houses, even if they have got slum-like type.

The common wishbone of the Co-operative Commonwealth is to be a block of flats—as they are in Vienna. Central and vegetation about the building can be done. It is a good thing to do. To do these things we need to get entirely outside of present ideas of ideas, and as a first suggestion, it would be well to request one of the experts in the Vienna housing scheme to take at least a temporary part of the work of the Sheffield Corporation—which would be a valuable contribution to the War Relief Fund, and an even more valuable one to the cause of Sheffield.



City Tenement showing lay-out of Garden.

Tenements with Archway giving access to street.