

150,000,000 GALLONS OF CO-OPERATIVE MILK.

The Fourth Co-operative Milk Publicity Week is being organised by societies in various parts of the country during May.

The co-operative movement is the biggest milk distributor in the country. Over 150,000,000 gallons of milk is being distributed by the co-operative movement each year, and of this total over 90 per cent. reaches co-operators safely pasteurised, bottled, and protected from impurities. Co-operative dairies are supplied with the best milk, which is prepared under the most hygienic and scientific conditions.

Milk is a valuable food for all, but it must be pure and clean, and the co-operative movement, as was testified by the Milk Reorganization Commission, has done a tremendous amount of pioneer work in providing a pure, clean, and cheap milk supply.

During the Publicity Week attention will be brought to the importance of milk as a food, and to the necessity of its being brought to the home in a clean and fresh state. Attention will also be called to the advantage of co-operative dividend.

BROOMHILL LABOUR PARTY will hold a

JUMBLE SALE on SATURDAY, MAY 12th, 1934, in HODGSON STREET MISSION HALL, HODGSON STREET, at 3 p.m.

COME AND SECURE A BARGAIN.

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for *Whitsuntide*

The remarkable value we are offering can be gauged by these examples:—

- INTERLOCK SPORTS SHIRTS** in all the popular shades - each 1/9
- SHIRTS** in Sand, Grey, Stripes, and Whites. Guaranteed quality at keen prices, from 2/11.
- SLIP-OVERS** made from strong yarns in new designs, from 2/11
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- RIBBED QUALITIES** - - 2/11
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- TIES** - - - 9½d, 1/- 1/6

PAY A VISIT!



* Dividend 1/10 in the £ *

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING?

CITIZENS AT THEIR LEISURE.

I AM always amused at the fact that we couple together two particular services under the charge of one of our Corporation Committees—Parks and Burial Grounds. The hygiene ground of the dead living and the eyesore of the dead lying are under one management! Perhaps the sobriety of managing a burial ground is compensated for by the fact of governing a park as well.

At the April Council meeting it was agreed that our old friend Alderman Nicholson should be appointed to represent the Council on the Federation of Cremation Authorities in Great Britain. With this grey and forbidding duty, he ought also to be given the office of Keeper of the Royal Parks, as a kind of antidote.

Incidentally, it fell to the lot of that same committee to consider and accept a tender from an ice cream purveyor of £75 for the privilege of selling ice cream in our parks for a year. Of course in this strange world, those who buy the ice cream will really pay the £75. And my goodness me! a statement was considered by still the same committee, showing that the number of bathers using the Millhouses bathing pool during the month of FEBRUARY was 375. What a chilly affair the committee meetings must be!

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

The Watch Committee has fixed the annual inspection of taxicabs for May 17th, 28th, and 29th. I have myself conjured up the scene: Aldermen Tharves and Albert Smith—the latter holding the colours, standing solemnly at Cole's Corner while a long procession of taxicabs, newly-painted, and with all their medals on, slowing file past at the salute. The aldermen named will later sit in each taxi, presumably, and unless they fall through the bottom the taxi in question will be passed as safe. But why isn't Alderman Bardsley on this committee?

CODEX SINAITICUS.

The Library Committee minutes draw attention to the fact that a replica of the Codex has been given to the Scribes by the J. G. Gray Charitable Trust. For most people in Sheffield, however, this copy of the original will be as useful as the original itself, and as an interesting exhibit it is certainly worth examining. Even our secondary schools hardly go as far as teaching the young folk to read it.

WATER.

The water reserves were still short, and rainfall very limited. In February, 1933, almost twice as much rain fell as in February, 1934! "If you must drink, drink the bath-water," is one of those slogans that may yet be popular, although the Water Committee hardly go as far as that yet. You are only asked to be careful in your use of water, and avoid its waste in any way.

We actually use a thousand-million gallons a month, and the amount is an increasing one.

HOUSING.

Several areas of houses were reported to the Council as being unfit for habitation in the Rockingham-street, Broad-lane, and Eldon-street districts. This is preparatory to "slum clearance," of course, and a most comprehensive and carefully-planned scheme, taking into account the making of Sheffield into a better city for its citizens, will be laid before the Council before very long. As pointed out in our special article last night, the buildings put up to-day will be the Sheffield of the next hundred years at least. They must therefore be good to look at and efficient for use to the highest degree. Alderman Galsworthy, who is in charge of this phase of activity, can be relied upon to do excellent work.

The areas that are condemned are dangerous or injurious to the health of the inhabitants.

VACCINATION.

All entrants to the Royal Blind School,

Manchester-road, must first be vaccinated. The managers hold the view that such treatment is necessary, and that has resulted in an applicant for entrance being refused. It is high time this regulation—necessary enough before the days of an efficient public health service—was scrapped along with some of the still older qualifications for public assistance as a matter of course. It is as absurd as antiquated as a condition as requesting, say, that all entrants should be members of the Church of England.

THE FIRST WOMAN ALDERMAN.

Mrs. Tebbutt has become the first woman Alderman of Sheffield, and her election provided Alderman Blanchard with another opportunity of getting into a hot water, quite as a matter of fact. He had all sorts of notions that were exploded, quite as a matter of fact, by the Town Clerk. The result of the whole matter was that Mrs. Tebbutt will be an alderman till 1938— which is as long as most of us care to look forward.

CIVIC CAVALRY.

The mounted department of the Police Force have received a present of a grey dapple gelding.

The Watch Committee very rightly tendered their thanks for the gift, but it is time we considered whether a mounted police force was not as obsolete as a bow-and-arrow army. The internal combustion engine driving a suitable conveyance is very much quicker, steadier, and generally more useful. If we want have something impressive, at least let us have something useful as well. The answer lay to be considered for the sole purpose of exercising themselves, and it is high time an inventive Chief Constable designed a very light and small kind of "Tank" which, at the same time, was equally fitted for certain of the transport work of a Corporation. For cleanliness, economy, and efficiency, it is time the horse departed from the modern city.

DOLLFUSS REGIME AND CO-OPERATION.

Austrian co-operators deserve our sincere practical sympathy in their hour of trial. Thanks to the personal intervention of Mr. H. J. May behalf of the International Co-operative Alliance, the situation appears more hopeful. The new dictators have appointed a Commission to take charge of the Movement, so that for the time being its independence in Austria is deprived of its movement. Austria's rulers, however, profess themselves well disposed towards co-operation, and we hope that their undertaking to restore Austrian co-operative self-government will be speedily operated.

Opponents of co-operation, as seems to be usual in times of crisis, attacked and cash illegally in some parts. There is, too, grave danger that the commercialism of the present organisations will circumvent. Noted leaders of our movement like Dr. Renner and Franz Freundlich, are political prisoners, and the Austrian co-operative tremendous hangings.

We prefer to suspend judgment for the time being until the present regime has had the opportunity of fulfilling the promises given to Mr. May. Meanwhile, Austrian co-operators need our help.

"TEMPEST."

Members of the Sheffield Educational Settlement are performing Shakespeare's "Tempest" in the Little Theatre, Shipton-street, off Colind-street, from May 2nd to 7th, 7-9 each evening. Prices of admission: 1s. 10 (reserved seats—Wilson Peck's); 1s. 3d., and (for the unemployed) 7d.

125,000 UNEMPLOYED DEPRIVED OF MEDICAL BENEFIT.

Government Refuses to Remedy the Injustice.

REPLYING to a question by Mr. WILSON THORPE, in the House of Commons on April 17th, the Minister of Health stated that the number of members of approved societies who, owing to protracted unemployment, had ceased to be entitled to medical benefit at the end of December, 1933, was approximately 125,000.

The Minister added that this number would be "substantially reduced" by reinstatements to medical benefit, and that of which were being received by approved societies at the rate of several hundreds a week.

But when asked by Mr. Logan whether in view of the large number of persons involved the Government proposed to revive the Prolongation Act, the Minister made no reply.

So all those unemployed who cannot pay their arrears of insurance contributions will continue, through no fault of their own, to be denied medical benefit under the State insurance scheme, and will have to be a charge on the local rates when medical treatment is required. That is the result of the "National Government's Act of 1932."

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- 33 in. 14/9
- 36 in. 16/0
- Super-quality - - 33 in. 25/6

SUIT CASES

- WE HAVE ONE OF THE LARGEST SELECTIONS IN THE CITY.
- 22 in. - - - 3/3 - 12/9
 - 24 in. - - - 3/9 - 14/6
 - 26 in. - - - 4/3 - 15/6



ATTACHE CASES

- 14 in. - - - 2/3 - 5/3
- 16 in. - - - 2/6 - 5/11
- 18 in. - - - 3/3 - 6/11

HAT and BLOUSE CASES

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HAYLEIGH WORKS, KETTERING.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.
ATTERCLIFFE.
COUNCILOR J. H. BROWN addressed a meeting of the Attercliffe Divisional Party, at the Attercliffe Co-operative Institute, on April 5th, giving an interesting résumé of City Council work. Many questions were asked and satisfactorily answered; but soon discussion which followed showed commendable interest in the city's affairs.

BRIGHTSIDE.
A successful meeting of the Brightside Divisional Council was held at the Rothay-road guildroom on Saturday, April 7th, which was the 100th anniversary of the president (Mr. J. W. the chair). After the ordinary business reports were given by Mr. Gibbons, on the Trades and Labour Council meetings; Mr. Hinneson, on the Conference of the National Guild of Co-operators—Mr. J. E. Jones supporting; and Mrs. Ashley, on the conference held under the auspices of the pre-School Child Committee.

The meeting was followed by an enjoyable social evening.

We regret to report that Mrs. E. Ward (secretary) is still confined to bed with illness.

Meetings of the 'Bungreave Women's Section, held in the Bungreave Vestry Hall, every Wednesday, at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. Velland.

HILLSBOROUGH.
The Hillsborough party meetings in the guildroom, on Thursdays evenings during April, have been well attended. On the 5th, readings of Press cuttings created useful discussion; 12th, the report of the annual conference held at Glasgow at Easter, was given by Mr. A. Ballard (party opposer), who outlined various resolutions and discussion, explained the attitude of the Co-operative Party to present-day social problems and the preparations for the next General Election. On the 19th, a "Mock" City Council was held with Mr. Holland as "Lord Mayor," Councillor Bingham as "Town Clerk," and the Co-operative Party speakers' class acting as the predominant party in the Sheffield City Council. The unemployed members took the side of the opposition party. Minutes of the various committees were introduced by members of the speakers' class, who outlined Labour's policy on the Health and Social Services generally in moving the minutes of their respective departments. Much humour was caused by the thoroughly reactionary speeches of the opposition, who tossed their case on the recommendations of the "Ray Report," and advocated drastic cuts in municipal expenditure. The Labour Party, however, managed to carry their policy—"as the Irishman put it—"by sheer weight of numbers."

A "Mock" Parliament is to be held in the near future, during which Labour's "Budget" will be introduced; details of this will be given later.

26th, a debate on "Are Trade Union Leaders Socialists?" created a good

deal of interest, Mr. R. Payling taking the affirmative, and Mr. F. W. Atkin the negative. Mr. Payling made out a case for the trade union-Labour representatives on the City Council by surveying the various reforms introduced into Sheffield municipal life since Labour took power in 1916; whilst Mr. Atkin contended that the average trade union leader had not sufficient of a national Socialist outlook to justify him in representing the real Socialist opinion of the working classes of this country.

The Women's Section meetings, held in the large Institute, have obtained good attendances during the whole of April. On the 9th, a pleasant social afternoon was spent; 16th, Miss Ram spoke on "Social and Economic Conditions in India"; 23rd, Councillor (Mrs.) Gansley, J.P. (London County Council, and director, London Co-operative Society), addressed a large audience; 30th, Mrs. Freeth was the speaker on "Women and Work." Programme for May: 7th, monthly social; 14th, address by Councillor J. Gill. There will be no meeting on Wait-Monday, but a fumble is being arranged for Wait-Tuesday, particulars of which will be announced at the next meeting.

Meetings held every Monday afternoon in the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute. Secretary: Mrs. R. M. Wood, 13, Hillsborough-place.

NEEPSEND.
The Neepsend Co-operative Party held their usual monthly meeting on April 11th, when Councillor F. W. R. Stokes gave the City Council report to a crowded audience. Questions and discussion followed. A business meeting will be held in the Institute on May 2nd, and the monthly City Council report will be given on May 9th. Alderman Watkins was to have attended, but owing to illness will be unable to be present.

The Women's Section meetings have continued during April with good attendance: 9th, Councillor Stokes spoke on "Housing"; 16th, Mr. Ernest Green took for his subject "Married Women in Industry"; 23rd, Mr. A. R. Butcher (member, Penny-in-the-Pound Scheme) spoke on the "Sheffield Hospitals"; and on the 30th, Mrs. Asbury—wife of Councillor Asbury—addressed the meeting. Meetings will be continued during May with a social on the 7th, Mr. J. W. Holland as speaker on the 14th, and Mr. Fisher will speak on the 28th on "Great Events in Sheffield History." Meetings held every Monday afternoon in the Co-operative Institute, Manes-street, at 2.45 p.m. All Neepsend women cordially invited.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.
The Southey and Norwood secretary reports that good attendance and keen interest has been maintained at our meetings during April. On the 4th, Councillor W. Asbury enlightened the members on the new Unemployment Bill now being read through the House of Commons. Mr. Asbury, who is an

authority on the subject, divulged some of the penalties which can be imposed on those who have to seek transitional benefit, facts in the Bill which have been ignored by the Tory Press. Mr. Asbury proved equal to the barrage of questions put, and wound up an interesting discussion by stressing the need for increased Co-operative and Labour representation on local and national governmental bodies for the summer period.

April 11th, Councillor (Mrs.) Speight, who gave the monthly City Council report, kept the audience keenly interested, and provoked a very useful discussion. On the 18th, in lieu of the usual social, a joint meeting with the Women's Section was held to make arrangements for the summer period, as a result of which the weekly meetings will be discontinued after May 9th, but meetings will be held the second Wednesday in each month for the City Council reports.

There is to be a flower show (for members only) on June 14th. Competitors will exhibit twelve stems of flowers of any variety, cuttings of flowers being grown in members' own gardens. A competent judge will be appointed. C.W.S. seeds are recommended.

The committee are also planning a mammoth jumble sale, to be held in September. If anyone has a piano, or a row of books, mirrors, etc., or any other commodity that they do not require, the secretary will be pleased to hear from them.

A series of visits is also being arranged to various municipal undertakings, &c. These will be announced at the monthly meetings. Anyone desiring to interview any of the councillors or aldermen should communicate with the secretary, Mr. G. A. Holder, 2, Crowder-close, and he will be pleased to arrange interviews as desired.

The secretary also states that there is no reason why the membership campaign should end during the summer, and he will be pleased to receive subscriptions from old and new members in readiness for an interesting winter programme now in course of preparation.

The Women's Section meetings have been held each Wednesday during April, and are to be continued during May: 2nd, a business meeting; 9th, Councillor Cobley will be the speaker. Names of subsequent speakers will be announced at the meetings.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.
The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held a good meeting on April 16th, at the Cemetery-road guildroom, when Councillor A. Oates was the speaker on "The Situation in Germany," winding up his address with an appeal for unity of the co-operative, trade union, and Labour movements, to meet and resist the Fascist menace. Councillor Oates spoke with his usual vigour and enthusiasm, and delighted a large audience by his ready and able answers to questions.

The Women's Section meetings are held every Thursday afternoon in the Mount Taber Methodist classroom, Wellington-street. Secretary: Mrs. J. Billan, 46, Blair Acthol-road.

HILLSBOROUGH PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

RT. HON. A. V. ALEXANDER
AND
MR. RICHY DAVIES, M.P.

WILL ADDRESS A PUBLIC MEETING IN THE

Wycliffe Hall (Channing Street), Langsett Road,

AT 8 p.m., FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1934.

CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR (MRS.) H. MITCHELL.
All Electors Cordially Invited.

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HIGH GRADE FOOTWEAR.

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STYLES AND SUBSTANCE TO MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS.

EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED.



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MONTHLY - ONE PENNY

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Published by the National Co-operative Publishing Society, Limited, 24, Long Bridge, Manchester, 3.

PREPARING FOR NOVEMBER.

PROMINENT CO-OPERATOR AS LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR FIRTH PARK WARD.

Mr. J. W. HOLLAND is the prospective Labour candidate for the Firth Park Ward in November, having been chosen at a largely-attended selection conference in the ward.

He appears to be a popular choice, having been born in the ward, and, except for a short period, has resided in the ward.

He attended, as a scholar, the All Saints' Church of England and Carlisle-street Board (now Council) Schools; later, for ten years, under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association, he studied Industrial History, Economics, and Political Science. With scholarships for the summer schools he has attended the Oxford and Bangor universities.

He is well known in the Adult School movement as speaker, chairman, and member. At the present time he is president of the Southey Adult School.

TRADE UNIONS.

For over twenty-four years he has been a member, and most of that time a branch official, of the Steel Smelters, now Iron and Steel Confederation. He is a member of the N.U.D.A.W.

He has acted as negotiator, both as a workman in the steel trade, and later, as an agent for the C.I.S., to improve and defend the conditions of his colleagues.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

He is at the present time a member of the Brightside and Carbrook board of directors, being elected at the top of the poll a year ago.

As a keen supporter of the necessity for political action, he has been for many years active in the work of the Co-operative Party, being at the present time chairman of the Brightside Divisional Section, also, as their representative, was recently elected as a vice-president of the Trades and Labour Council.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE.

Mr. Holland was a member of the City Council for three years, representing the



MR. J. W. HOLLAND.

Walkley Ward, during which time he attended 526 meetings out of a possible 535. He was chairman of the Baths Committee amongst the other appointments he held whilst in the Council.

Baths for Firth Park is a favourite topic with him, he having already done a little to draw attention to the need for scholars in that area to have swimming facilities much nearer home.

For over three years he has been a member of the City Education Committee.

He has fought Sharrow four times, and Hallam once on behalf of Labour, so he has done his share of propaganda in difficult wards.

WOMEN'S NOTES.

By GRACE COLMAN
(Prospective Parliamentary Candidate,
Hallam Division).

The Conservative candidate for North Hallam has told the unemployed that they are "jolly lucky" to have their benefits increased; and the Government's supporters are full of self-satisfaction at the decision, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement, to restore, as from July 1st, the 20 per cent cut in rates of benefit made in 1931.

THE BUDGET SHAM.

When we consider where the money to restore the cuts is to come from, however, we realise that this complacency is hardly justified. In the first place, it does not come out of the national revenue, that is out of the proceeds of taxation, but out of the Unemployment Fund, which receives contributions from workers and employers, and some money from the Treasury. This fund is now receiving in contributions many millions more in a year than it has to pay in its benefits, and so it has a surplus large enough to restore the cuts. But, in the second place, what this surplus is partly due to the fact that more people are in work, it is mainly due to two other causes, to the large number of unemployed to whom benefits is now refused, and who have been put under the Means Test, and to the increases in rates of contribution made by this Government in 1931. As part of the economy measures of the "crisis," workers' and employer's contributions were raised, a man, for instance, having to pay 10s. a week, instead of 9d., and an employer, for a male worker, 20d. instead of 8d. Thus, the workers themselves have provided, in reduced benefits and increased contributions, a very large part of the surplus out of which the cuts are to be restored; and, further, the workers and employers are to continue to bear the burden of these high contributions, since the Government does not propose to reduce them.

THE MEANS TEST REMAINS.

That the Chancellor's much advertised "generosity" in a sham is all the more clear when we remember that there is to be no increase in the children's allowances; and that the Unemployment Fund is still to be saddled with the repayment of the debt to which I referred in my Notes last month. This means that there can be no further improvement in rates of benefit; and that, if unemployment increases again, benefits may again be cut down. Even "The Times," which supports the Government, is afraid of this; and many Conservative M.P.s, as well as the Parliamentary Labour Party, have appealed to Mr. Chamberlain to alter his decision, but with no success.

The only real advantage which the unemployed will gain from the "prosperity" Budget is the extra money, amounting to about £4,000,000 a year, which will be spent in transitional benefits. Compare this with the sum of over £20,000,000 which goes to income tax payers! Since the ordinary standard

benefit is to be increased, Public Assistance Committees may, if they choose, increase the amounts granted in transitional benefit, but there is, of course, no guarantee that they will do so. In fact Mr. Chamberlain's said in the House of Commons, on April 23rd, that he had been asked whether the increase in transitional benefit allowed for in the Budget would mean an automatic increase of 20 per cent. In every award, and that the answer was "No," since transitional payments are on a needs basis. There will no doubt be some improvement, but the amount will depend on whether any particular Public Assistance Committee is harsh or sympathetic in its interpretation of the Means Test. When the Unemployment Bill becomes law this summer a new body, the Unemployment Assistance Board, will take the place of the Public Assistance Committees in deciding the allowances to be paid to the unemployed who have no right to standard benefit, but these allowances will still be on a household income and needs basis. This means that the majority of the unemployed will still be subject to the same kind of Means Test as they are to-day, but administered by a different body, and that on this body will depend how much they get of the "fruits of prosperity."

These facts will not show that Mr. Chamberlain is a sort of Father Christmas, showering gifts on all, as some people would have us believe, but that the housewife who has to make ends meet on unemployment pay can hope for little help from this Government, and that much of what the unemployed are getting in the Budget they have paid for themselves.

Hallam Divisional Labour Party.

Miss Grace M. Colman
(PROSPECTIVE PARLIAMENTARY
CANDIDATE FOR HALLAM)

will address Public Meetings
on Sunday Evening,

MAY 13th, 1934, at 7 p.m.,

in CROOKESMOOR
VESTRY HALL,

and on Monday Evening,

MAY 14th, at 7-30 p.m.,

in POMONA STREET
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THE WINDOW-DRESSING BUDGET EXPOSED.

By C. R. ATTLER, M.P. (Deputy Leader of the Labour Party).

"UNTO HIM THAT HATH . . ."

Mr. Chamberlain and the present Government are not on helping the poor people with family obligations. The poor income tax payers (and many category in 1934 have brought into that life; the family allowed in respect 1931. They are not restored. Instead a 4d. in the rate of tax from 5s. to 4s. 6d. in the pound is made.

This method insures that the benefit shall go to those with least responsibilities and with greatest need help.

There is something else to be noticed, and that is the steady growth of indirect tax as against direct taxation. The first is paid mainly by the poor and moderately well-to-do, the second by the wealthier well-to-do, the third by the classes in whose family budgets food is such a large item are, under the schemes of Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Elliot, to pay the most. It is obviously only the capitalists who have invested their money in Australia, Canada, and the Argentine, and bankers and landlords who have first claim, under the present system, to any money that may go to British agriculture.

Thus, the whole tendency of this Budget, as of the Government's policy generally, is to shift the purchasing power of the community from the pockets of the poor to the pockets of the rich.

But the Budget is something more

than a mere class Budget camouflaged with a pretence of doing justice to the unemployed; it is an expression of the total inability of the Government to grasp the conditions of the world in which we live. It is stupid even from the capitalist point of view.

KILLING THE HOME MARKET.

Government policy is to restrict imports as much as possible, and to stimulate home production. It is a modified policy of economic nationalism. The only way in which such a policy can be made to work is by seeing that there is an increase in the purchasing power of the home market. It is obviously only among the poorer sections of the community that there can be found an increased demand for food products. The Government, by their policy of raising food prices without at the same time increasing wages, and by their continual endeavour to increase the purchasing power of the rich instead of the poor, are making it quite certain that Mr. Elliot's policy will be brought to nought.

It is amazing that despite the striking evidence of medical men that the unemployed and their families are insufficiently fed, and the fact, disclosed by the low interest rates on money, that the market for investment is overstocked, Mr. Chamberlain deliberately takes a course which must mean that the needs of the former will not be supplied while the plot of the latter will be identified. A further feature of the Budget and of Mr. Chamberlain's speech is the complete ignoring of the fact that all taxation comes from the wealth produced by

the people of this country. While the services of more than two million people are unused, the country loses the wealth which would be produced if they were at work. This, on a very low computation, amounts to £200,000,000 a year. The Government meanwhile is concerned to save a paltry £5,000,000 on the cost of paying a decent wage to the servants of the State.

BANKRUPTCY OF CAPITALIST ECONOMICS.

It was illuminating to hear Mr. Chamberlain's satisfaction at getting more taxation than he had expected from the beer duties. He seems to imagine that getting people to drink more beer and thus pay more revenue means that the country is better off.

The fact is that the Budget merely illustrates the bankruptcy of capitalist economics. Its devotees cling to an obsolete system whereby it is impossible to distribute purchasing power in such a way as to increase the wealth and well-being of the nation. They have no plan to meet the new conditions of a world of abundance, and can only repeat old shibboleths of the age of scarcity.

Finally, we may note that the Government have no plan for dealing with the National Debt. Sinking funds have proved utterly useless. The nominal value of the debt is nearly as high as twelve years ago, while its burden is immensely increased. Even the successful conversions of last year do no more than slightly ease the burden.

Only in the case of our debt to the U.S.A. is there frank abandonment of all pretence of honouring an obligation. If it is right to offer one set of money-lenders a composition of about 2s. 6d. in the pound, people will soon begin to ask why the same plan is not applied to the whole burden of indebtedness which is crushing the world.

Mr. Chamberlain's Budget is a characteristic product of the present Government. It is dictated by a narrow reactionary attitude of mind destitute of imagination, statesmanship, and real grasp of the economic problems of the modern age. At first sight with its claim to holding the balance even and its parade of restoring the cuts it drew applause from Conservatives, Liberals and Jimmy Maxton.

The Labour Party was not so deceived, but saw through this pretentious piece of window-dressing.

It was obvious that something would have to be done for the unemployed. The pressure of public opinion and, still more, the growing Labour vote, especially at the London County Council elections, made this certain.

The Chancellor's one chance was to do the thing in a big way. But he did not take it. He restored the cuts to the unemployed on statutory benefit, but at the expense of the Insurance Fund. The bulk of the money will be found by employers and employees who are to be relieved with the liquidation of the debt piled up during the big slump.

The unemployed on transitional payments are to be left to the tender mercies of the Means Test. Sir Henry Belton said that to restore these people to their position before the cuts and the Means Test would cost £20,000,000. Mr. Chamberlain estimates the generosity of the administrators of transitional benefit at £3,500,000 this year, and £4,000,000 in a full year.

Thus, this Government, bankrupt of honour, pays about 5s. in the pound to the poorest of the poor.

Nearly as mean is the treatment of the servants of the community who, just because of their position under the State, were mulcted of their pay. This debt of honour is paid at 20s. in the pound.

CO-OPERATIVE VETERANS.

SHEFFIELD & ECCLESALL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY ENTERTAINS ITS OLD MEMBERS.



A section of the large assembly of co-operative veterans who accepted the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society's invitation to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee.

Close upon 500 people attended the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society held in the Officers' Hall, on Saturday last.

There were members of forty years and over, and all were agreed that the event had been an outstanding success.

The marble panelled Banqueting Hall, with its life-size oil paintings of former civic dignitaries, has witnessed many striking functions of the historic Cutlers' Company, but few can have been more inspiring than the spectacle of these pioneers of the society, ranging in age from sixty to ninety-one, as they sat at table, while the Sheffield and Ecclesall Orchestral Society rendered musical items. It must have been a very gratifying sight to the committee of management and those responsible for the arrangements.

Welcoming the guests, Mr. W. Buckley (committee of management) spoke of those who "blazed the trail," paying tribute to the pioneers of 1874, who had laid the firm foundations on which stood the sound concern of 1934. He mentioned with pride those present who had outstanding records of membership and service, and read a letter from a member, unavoidably absent, who recorded that he never regretted becoming a member of the co-operative movement, for she had always received satisfaction and

courteous service throughout her membership of over fifty years.

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Alderman F. Marshall, J.P.) who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, replied. He reminded those present of the changes which had taken place since the days of the first shop in Naylor-street, rented at 2s. 7½d per week. He concluded his very interesting remarks by acknowledging the debt of gratitude and appreciation due by the thousands who now constitute the society to those old members, through difficulties and dangers of the early days, had remained steadfast and hopeful, and lived to see their society firmly and safely established.

The toast of "The Society" should have been proposed by Mr. A. E. Fletcher, the sole survivor of the original forty-eight members, but "Doctor's Orders" prevented him from being present at what should have been a very proud moment in his life. His great regret was very sympathetically noticed by all who listened to it. His place was taken, on very short notice, by Alderman W. F. Worsley, a Freeman

of the City, and a very old member of the Sheffield Society, which was taken over by the Ecclesall Society in 1907, and because of the "S. & E." of to-day.

Replying to this toast, Councillor J. A. Longden (management committee) spoke of the society's progress, and gave astonishing figures and comparisons.

After a distribution of "Lutons" chocolates to the ladies, and "smokes" to the males, the company withdrew until the hall was converted for a concert at which the St. Cecilia Male Quartette rendered glee and solos, and Miss Constance Green's dancing pupils gave a pleasing display. The programme was co-ordinated by Staines' Stephen, the well-known wireless comedian, who, in his item of "Local News," revealed to a doubting, but highly amused audience, "charismatic" of the principal guests. The proceedings terminated shortly before 10 p.m., and the departing guests were given a souvenir—a casket containing two pounds of the famous No. 40 Tea, and a parcel of Lovestock productions. The catering was very ably carried out by the society's department.

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RHYL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

REPRESENTATIVES of the seven million British co-operatives meet at Rhyll on Whit-Monday for the Sixty-sixth Annual Co-operative Congress. The policy and progress of the co-operative movement during the past year will be reviewed, and plans for the future formulated.

At the opening of Congress, Mr. Arthur Pickup will deliver the Presidential Address as chairman of Congress. The presidency of Congress is the highest honour of the co-operative movement, and is conferred upon any of its members. The office gives some experienced and tried co-operative leader an opportunity to express his personal views about the movement, and even to criticise the movement if need be.

Greetings will be received from delegates from overseas and the national organisations in the British Isles, including the Trade Unions Congress. Two resolutions submitted by co-operative societies will be considered.

The whole sphere of co-operative activity is reviewed by Congress, which is the keystone to co-operative democratic organisation.

FAILURE OF PRESS ATTACKS.

The report of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union to Rhyll Co-operative Congress alludes to the failure of the Press attacks upon societies. It says:—

During the last twelve months co-operation has been in the forefront of controversy in Parliament, in the Press, and on the platform. Ignored for so long, the movement is now recognised, by friend and enemy alike,

as a notable factor in the social, industrial, and economic life of the country. Co-operation has proved its ability to operate independently as a force for progress, in face of the open hostility of capitalist minions in the Commons and certain Press organs among the Lords. The scope to this year of conflict comes as a glorious surprise for co-operators, and, let us hope, a enlightening one for the masses. Co-operative membership continues to increase. Cash turnover, so long in decline, is mounting once again.

We can claim with pride that in the hour of crisis our vast membership not only rallied to the cause, but contemptuously affronted the forces of reaction that sought to sap its allegiance. There are more co-operative homes in 1934 than in any previous year, and those households are not yearning for the past, but more co-operative, than ever before, and more co-operative, to-day.

CAPITALISM IN DESPAIR.

The Central Board report goes on to explore the real motive behind the attacks on the people's successful co-operative organisations.

The serious aspect of the Press attacks, however, is that they are a measure of the lengths to which a desperate and despairing capitalism will go to avert suppression by a co-operative system manifestly better fitted to human and material needs in an age of potential plenty. Co-operative expansion and development contrast oddly with the new doctrine of the capitalists—namely, artificial restriction of production in order to make artificial prices and guaranteed profits—a doctrine which has gained a spurious respectability in certain Governmental quarters. During the last fifteen years capitalist exploiters have exhausted the world to embark upon contradictory courses. First, mass production and mass consumption, then deflation, then rationalisation, then protection, then currency inflation, and, lastly, limited production—the direct opposite of the post-war plan.

Co-operative principles and practices, however, are not whims of the moment. They remain substantially the same as they were ninety years ago, for the simple reason that they are found true and stable in ever-widening circles of consumer need at a time when capitalism searches desperately for some new excuse for its continued existence. Fear as well as envy is at the root of the opposition of the millionaire antagonists of the co-operative movement. They see the failure of competitive industry and commerce, and seek a scapegoat to which they can attribute reversal. For them the question is not revival, but survival!

The final note of the introduction to the Central Board report is a determination to oppose the tide of dictatorship which is rising in some parts of Europe.

The report states:—
The fight which the co-operative movement has made to safeguard the rights of consumers has also extended into the field of citizenship. Co-operation and dictatorship are utterly incompatible, and mutually exclusive. The Central Board observes with anxiety concern the late co-operative movements abroad, which have come under the heel of Fascism. From its inception the co-operative movement in all its aspects has been built up on the basis of freedom and democracy. The whole structure of its organisation bespeaks the determination of the movement to conserve the rights of every member to an equal voice in the destinies of the equal society. Any attempt to sup the democratic foundations of the movement on the part of the nation will be fatal to the cause which we espouse. Voluntary co-operation requires free speech, free criticism, and must be prepared to resist to the uttermost any attempt to subvert the natural rights of co-operators in the sphere of voluntary co-operation, and also in the sphere of citizenship.

PASSING OF HERBERT SCOTCRICK.

LOSS TO SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATION.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Herbert Scotcrick, who was for many years treasurer of the Hillsborough Co-operative Society, a member of the Fellowship and management committee of the Hillsborough Co-operative Institute. Mr. Scotcrick has been a member of the Fellowship and Carbrook Society during the whole of his married life, and was keenly interested in co-operative education and social work, as well as the financial and social work of the movement. A trading side unionist—member of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers—he has always stood four-square for the he has always stood four-square and caused the workers anywhere and everywhere.

He was for many years secretary of the Young People's Institute at Petroo-street Chapel, Leeds, and was interested in gardening. He was stated to have the best back-garden in the district at Ogthorpe long before the Brighton Sheffield movement started, and two years ago was highly commended by that organisation for the delightful setting of a charming garden which he loved.

His death will be keenly lamented in co-operative and Labour circles, more particularly at Hillsborough where he resided. He helped to build and helped to sustain the organisation of the Fellowship—a bond of people with no particular creed but with a fine gospel of service, which was exemplified by Mr. Scotcrick in every detail of his work. Councillor Blingham paid a fitting tribute to him when he said, at the graveside, that Herbert Scotcrick never hesitated to do any task, however thankless, and he was always thorough in all that he did.

The end came very suddenly after he had been laid aside for only a fortnight, and he was laid to rest at Bunsbury Cemetery on Thursday, April 12th, where a representative gathering attended from his trade union, workmates, and the co-operative movement. Mr. Scotcrick leaves a widow and a daughter who is an accomplished violinist. We desire to record our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved ones in their sad loss.

HILLSBOROUGH DIVISION LABOUR PARTY.

The Hillsborough Divisional Labour Party is now rapidly becoming a most effective organisation. Organiser Ward Section, under the able chairmanship of Councillor Ibbotson, is showing remarkable interest in showing remarkable improvement. We do feel, however, that there are still great untapped resources in that ward, and we urge all residents who are interested to rally round.

The Watkley Ward have just emerged triumphant from a by-election wherein our opponents used every means in their power to wrest the seat which would have given them control of the City Council. It was a glorious victory, and we wish to thank all helpers for the assistance which was so readily forthcoming—and more especially to those splendid women who came from all parts of the city. The bills of Watkley were conquered, we feel, at the expense of many tired and aching feet.

The ward can now look forward with every prospect of success. Membership has been more than trebled in the short period of its existence. The next ward meeting will take place on May 3rd, and subsequent meetings will be held on Tuesday, Mr. F. Hargreaves, 10, Mansvers-rd.

The Watkley Women's Section have received a strong fillip in the election of Mrs. (Mrs.) Mitchell. Meetings are held in the month, and fourth, Tuesdays Hargreaves, the ward secretary, gave an interesting talk on "Women's Place in the Socialist Movement," and, on May 3rd, Councillor (Mrs.) Mitchell will be the speaker. A hearty invitation will be tendered to all women in the district to come to Sherd-road Labour Hall.

CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES' PENSIONS.

A PAMPHLET entitled "Superannuation Schemes for Retail Co-operative Societies," which has just been published by the Co-operative Union, states that there are 760 superannuation schemes in existence, covering 166 retail societies. It is shown that the total number of employees covered by these schemes was 110,000, and a large number of schemes are in various stages of preparation. The Co-operative Wholesale Societies also have schemes in operation.

Thus, not only does the co-operative movement provide its working week holidays with pay, and wages during sickness, but when employees have completed service with societies, co-operators will care for them by providing funds which contribute to their post-service welfare.

The pamphlet may be obtained from the Co-operative Union Limited, Manchester, price 5d., post free.

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1,413,780 PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF POOR RELIEF.

Increase of 375,348 in Three Years.

On March 24th, 1934, there were 1,413,780 persons in receipt of Poor Relief in England and Wales.

The total on the corresponding day in March, 1931, was 1,038,432. Thus, in the three years, the total has increased by 375,348.

These figures were given by Mr. Shelephers (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health) in the House of Commons on April 19th, in reply to a question by Mr. Tom Smith. The totals are exclusive of rate-aided patients in mental hospitals, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and casuals. As the following figures show, the number of persons in receipt of Poor Relief has increased each year under the "National" Government:

Date.	Total (England and Wales)
March, 1931.....	1,038,432
March, 1932.....	1,128,077
March, 1933.....	1,357,230
March, 1934.....	1,413,780

TRICKING THE UNEMPLOYED.

In his Budget speech the Chancellor of the Exchequer led the country to believe that he was restoring the cuts to the whole of the unemployed. Actually, the cost of restoring the cuts in unemployment benefit will be borne entirely by the Unemployment Fund provided by the contributions of the workers, the employers, and the State. But the Chancellor told the House that the unemployed applying for transitional payments were to receive equal treatment in the restoration of cuts. He said that the Government proposed, by legislation, to effect "equal restoration to those inside the scheme as to those outside it."

In explaining the Government's proposal, the Chancellor said that "this full restoration of unemployment benefit of which I have just spoken naturally carries with it a corresponding alteration in the maximum rates of transitional payments." The sum of £3,600,000 was to be allotted to this purpose.

The obvious interpretation of this

statement was that the raising of the maximum rates of transitional payments would involve an automatic 70 to all the unemployed applying for Test. But when Mr. Devan asked the Chancellor to endorse this interpretation, the Chancellor replied:

"When, however, the question is put 'Is this automatically an increase which applies to every award the answer is 'No.' clearly, I think, it cannot be otherwise. It must be in my Budget speech that if the payment is on a needs basis these

This reply exposes the meanness of the Government's treatment of the unemployed. It will be read with dismay by the hundreds of thousands of unemployed who are being subjected to gross injustices under the Means Test. It will disgust all those religious and social workers, medical experts and others who have been pleading with the Government to remove the injustices, and ensure a more reasonable standard of living for the unemployed and their families.

About half the insured unemployed are being subjected to the Means Test. The Chancellor's cold-blooded statement means that only those who are fortunate enough to be awarded the maximum rate of transitional payments under the Means Test will get the benefit of the restoration of the cuts. The others, estimated at about half-a-million, will still have to endure the hardship imposed by it. The family income basis of assessment of need remains in spite of the nation-wide protest against this gross injustice. The Government has thrown a sum of £3,600,000 to this class of unemployed, and washed its hands of the whole question.

But public opinion will not allow the Government to practice this mean trickery on the unemployed with impunity. On this question alone the Government stands condemned in the eyes of the nation.

VIENNA TO-DAY.

We print here extracts from a report by Mr. E. F. Fisher, Secretary, South Yorkshire branch, Workers' Educational Association, who recently visited Vienna in connection with W.E.A. Study 7.

The school was organized by the South Yorkshire W.E.A., and held during Easter. This is the third of the district, the object of which is to give our members an opportunity of getting in touch with working-class education, trade unions, co-operative, educational, and social. The first school was held in Belgium, the second in Germany.

Arrangements were made before the revolution and we suggested cancellation but our friends in Vienna pressed us to go. Working-class organisations had gone entirely out of existence, or being driven underground, and it was possible that further trouble might break out at any time.

We arrived late on Easter Sunday night and commenced our observations on Monday morning.

HIGH PRICES.

We were greatly interested in the flats erected by the municipality, and almost our first visit was to them. To a foreigner it appears that almost everybody lives in a flat. The privately-owned ones are five or six stories high, and being on both sides of a set very wide streets give a rather gloomy appearance to the place. Vienna did not come up to expectations, and there are very few points from which one can get a comprehensive view of the city. Even when this is done it is not striking, the setting is not good. The national and municipal buildings, the Opera House, the Art Galleries, and palaces are magnificent but such places as the Opera House are not for working folk. We went on a propaganda night, when seats were cheaper than usual, and we paid equivalent to 3s. 3d. in English money for what is the cheapest part of the house—the gallery. It is doubtful if opera can be popularised at this and higher prices. We were told that 50,000 people maintain the opera and theatre. Obviously, the rate of exchange made everything dear for us, but prices are high even for the Viennese, and life must be a tremendous problem for the poorer people.

HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVED.

But the interesting thing was that we were able to see on Friday things we did not expect to see. On our first day we went to the Karl Marx Flats, soldiers (Heimwehr) were on guard, and we walked past and cast sidelong glances as we did so. That night a young student from the university came to see us, asked if there was anything special we wanted to see, and we said the flats. After that we did the thing thoroughly. We visited any flats in which we were interested, knocked at doors, and were admitted, saw every type, listened to the remarks and the conditions of tenancy. It is a remarkable achievement. In twelve years 60,000 flats have been erected, housing something like 200,000 people. We were shown round one set of flats which make a very pleasant suburb. We said, "This is all very well, but we want to see your slums." The answer was, "There are no slums." If this is true, then Vienna has gone further than any large city I know in solving its slum problem. An Englishman proposes a house of one room, but even well-to-do continental people are used to living in flats, and like them; in consequence, this must be regarded as the best contribution to the solution of the housing problem that has yet been made. If there is a better I have not heard of it.

MUNICIPAL TAX SOLVED.

The flats have been built by a municipal trust, graduated according to income, and although buildings have ceased under the present regime, the tax—which is said to be one of the causes of unrest among the well-to-do—is still being collected. Further, there is now an

additional tax, presumably for the maintenance of the Heimwehr Army, called the security tax. It is considered that one of my friends received the demand on the day I called on him, and it was £13 in English money.

HERR WEBER.

The councillors in Vienna were elected, but there was an official in charge of the each department. He is a kind of elected official, and I gathered that the personnel varies according to the party in power. The official in charge of the flats is Herr Weber. He is in prison and will be charged with erecting flats that could be fortified. I saw his daughter, and she told me that he is taking the matter very calmly—he can be visited once a week—has other interests, and is spending his time working at an engineering problem which he had long wanted to do and now finds time to devote to it.

I wish I had space to tell of the many interesting people we met. There is evidence of enthusiasm for the present régime, but it is restricted, will last, but the influence of Hitler grows, and the Socialists are by no means down and out. There are all the elements of serious trouble, and it may come. The Socialists, especially the young ones, are snarling under their defeat, and are longing to get their own way. In these days of curfews and freedom is restricted, and to find so many people prepared to give their lives for it.

KARL KAUSKY.

My biggest disappointment was that I did not meet Karl Kautsky. Friends kindly arranged for me to see him, but he is eighty years of age in October; the spring air affects his health and he was confined to his room. I spent an interesting afternoon with Madame Kautsky, who is seventy years of age, but is keenly alert and very interested in international affairs, especially as they concern England, where she has many friends among the older generation of Socialists and co-operators. Her son, Dr. Kautsky, was with her. He is a physician, and was a councillor, and released from prison recently. They gave me an interesting afternoon, but I may get the opportunity to tell about this and many other things later.

SHEFFIELD REPERTORY COMPANY.

In aid of the Repertory Theatre Appeal Fund, which still needs £75, at all amateur production, with Laurie Lingard as producer, will be presented in the Theatre for one week, beginning Saturday, April 28th.

Two plays are to be given—Lennox Robinson's comedy about a repertory company, "Is Life Worth Living?" preceded by a new one-act play, "Afore Suspicion," by T. Alec Seed, a Sheffield artist, whose play about unemployment, "Line Two," was a great success at the Repertory Theatre last autumn.

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If all our dreams could come true like this what a happy world it would be—good wages, honest value, and fair shares in the profits!

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New for Whitsuntide

Whitsuntide will soon be here—there are many things you will require for the holiday—a visit to our Ladies' and Children's Fashion Salons, also the Men's Wear Departments will be very worth-while—a charming array of everything that is new at very economical prices.

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COAL!!!**

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"B. & C." PASTEURISED MILK—the only Safe Milk, rich in cream, from our own model BROUGHTON LANE DAIRY. If you are not already obtaining supplies, ask at your nearest branch or send a post card to the Dairy Manager, which will receive prompt attention.

The Dividend at
1/7 in the £

is that extra help which turns your pennies into 6s.

BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED