



No. 122.

OCTOBER, 1934.

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THE NEW FOOD 'COMBINES' MEAN JUST THIS— You'll Have to Pay (and Earn More to Live). THE RIGHT HON. A. V. ALEXANDER BRINGS IT HOME TO THE PUBLIC.

We are now getting to a position where we can judge the results of the Government's policy of protection and subsidies. They claim it has increased employment. In fact, improvement in employment here is not equal to improvement in the world as a whole. (The International Labour Office reports a reduction from 29,000,000 to 22,000,000 of unemployed since 1931).

For the last two months, unemployment shows an increase in Great Britain of 43.9% compared to a decrease of 26.9% in the corresponding months of 1933.

Mr. Runciman warns us that recovery in the Home Market has almost reached saturation point, and that it is impossible for us to return to prosperity without a recovery in export trade, which his own policy of raising economic barriers has done so much to prevent.

This country is turning wholesale to a policy of subsidy to bolster up British industries, hampered by economic barriers we have ourselves added to by the present Government's policy of Protection.

HOW IT WORKS OUT.

For example, we step a large part of our imports, then wonder at our empty ships, and propose a subsidy of £2,000,000 for our cargo shipping trade! We are in many instances injuring our export trade by our tariff impositions, of which the tinplate industry is a good example. Sir William Pirbright (chairman, Richard Thomas and Co.) recently informed their shareholders that Continental steel makers, shut out from the steel market in this country by tariffs, had increased their output of tinplates and were selling them in all parts of the world in increasing quantities at lower prices.

He complained that Protection, instead of benefiting the tinplate industry, had considerably increased the price of their raw materials and created additional and very severe competition in their foreign markets, which normally should consume 75% of their products. But, above all, the general policy of the present Government is to increase all round the burdens of the consumer to benefit the vested interests of the rentier and particular productive interests.

Note first how works in the field of taxation. The receipts from Customs duties for the year ended March 31st, 1931, were £721,400,000. For the year to March 31st, 1934, they were

£179,177,000. Estimated receipts to March 31st, 1935, are £183,550,000. With additional duties since imposed, I estimate the receipts at not less than £184,500,000, or an increase of £63,000,000 per annum since 1931. Four-fifths of this figure must be borne by the working classes.

WHO REALLY PAYS.

The percentage of indirect taxation has increased since 1921. Taxation of food has increased since 1931 by over £20,000,000. It is argued by Mr. Chamberlain that this increased taxation has, in fact, been borne by the foreigner. Has it?

World prices have dropped in this period on an average by fourteen points, whereas they have remained stationary or are rising here, so that the home consumer has not obtained the advantage of the fall in world prices because he has had to pay the new import duties.

In any case, Mr. Chamberlain cannot have it both ways. If he still claims that the foreigner has paid these taxes by having to send goods at lower prices, his Protection policy is no safeguard for British production, and has precipitated the demand for quotas and subsidies to contract this fall in world prices.

Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in the case of agricultural products, where the Government policy has created a position that is simply fantastic.

This country has for a century been the most important market in the world for food products and for many important raw materials. The restrictions placed upon it by the Government have therefore been a most important factor in the general decline in world trade, which shows a fall of no less than 25 per cent. in volume and 48 per cent. in sterling values since 1929.

Now, while no one would argue that the agricultural industry in this country is not entitled to consideration, it seems to have been forgotten that whereas 100 per cent. of our population are food consumers, only 7 per cent. are food producers, and a policy which first restricts imports from countries overseas reduces imports from our exports, and then raises prices and reduces consumption, cannot in the long run do anything but reduce the 7 per cent. of our population who are food producers.

This is well illustrated in the case of bacon. In the first seven months of 1932 we imported 7,158,466 cwt. of bacon and ham to the value of £28,578,829. In the first seven months of the present year, with the restrictive quota in operation, we imported only 5,037,680 cwt. of bacon and ham at a cost of £19,747,975.

That is, over 2,000,000 cwt. less bacon at an additional cost of over £1,000,000. The foreigner did not pay that million! The result has been not only to restrict the import, but so to raise the prices of all hams to the home consumer that the demand for home-produced bacon has not increased to anything like the extent of the foreign shut out. On the reduced consumption of ham the consumer has paid over £11,000,000 more for his bacon since November, 1932!

Import quotas similarly imposed in respect of beef and eggs have failed to achieve the same Government object, because of the Ottawa agreement. But Mr. Elliot is not to be thwarted! He rushes a Bill through Parliament for a subsidy of £3,000,000 on the first 300,000 cwt. of ham the consumer has paid over £11,000,000 more for his bacon since November, 1932!

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The wheat subsidy, now well over £6,000,000 per annum, is collected by means of a tax at the mill on all flour, and is equal to 4d. on every quarter loaf of bread sold.

Up to the present the public have paid over £22,000,000 in this way since its commencement.

The sugar subsidy, which I have previously exposed, is now likely to be passed on to the consumer at the rate of 2s. 4d. per cwt., or a round £4,600,000 per annum.

The milk subsidy is to cost the Government from £1,500,000 to £1,750,000 per annum. Taxation of butter from foreign countries has merely increased the hoard of butter from the Dominions, and so depressed world prices of manufactured milk products that the home consumer has to pay higher prices for liquid milk to help bear the losses of the Milk Board's loss on milk products.

The hop growers is guaranteed 5p per cwt. for hops, or a clear 50 per cent. profit with some effect on the price of beer.

The complete story of Government aids to agriculture is amazing. So far back as July, 1933, Dr. J. A. Venn (informed—the Agricultural Economics Society that in direct grants, in relief from central and local taxation, and in indirect assistance, the value of State assistance amounts to over £45,000,000 per annum, or 13s. per week for every one of the 2,150,000 persons gainfully occupied in farming.

If we make allowance for the additional aid per year (excluding the additional import duties on food), the total amounts to over £50,000,000, practically 17s. per week for every farmer and agricultural worker. Capitalism on the dole with a vengeance!

And there is no quid pro quo for this bounty on the consumer. No guarantee of increased efficiency. Every suggestion to the agricultural industry on those lines seems just to lead to another demand for subsidy, quota, or tariff.

"DRAGONING" US ALL

Sooner or later, however, this country will have to face up to the situation. A highly subsidised and protected agriculture in this country can be arranged. You may even, after a struggle, get more efficiency in the industry, but our overseas markets, Empire and foreign, must be correspondingly reduced. Retaliation has already commenced.

We begin to hear of boycott and counter-boycott, even between this country and the Dominions. The so-called Empire Party may prove to have done more to disrupt the British Empire in the life of one Parliament than can be remedied in generations.

In any case, with our present population, and with our investments overseas, and with our industrial resources, overseas trade is vital to our life and prosperity. In fact, we must either export goods or export population.

It is time our people got acquainted with the facts. The burden has been transferred to them by tariffs and quotas, subsidies are creating new vested interests and keeping others permanent, and our world market is being permanently injured.

Sir Josiah Stamp hints at the "dragoning of the consumer" as essential to "economic planning," whereas the ultimate solution can only be the release of the products of labour to all the people and a maintenance of consumption equal to increase in production.

HILLSBOROUGH PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12th.

RT. HON. A. V. ALEXANDER

WILL ADDRESS MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

Hillsborough Baptist Schoolroom,

Longley Council School,

TAPLIN ROAD.

RAISEN HALL ROAD.

Chair to be taken at 8 p.m. by COUNCILLOR J. GILL.

Chair to be taken at 8 p.m. by Mr. H. G. McNEE

(Proprietary Labour Candidate for the Paulsons Division).

Other Speakers: COUNCILLOR J. A. LONGDEN, Mr. HAROLD SLACK (Co-operative and Labour Candidate for Owlerton), and Mr. J. H. PEARCE (Co-operative and Labour Candidate for Hillsborough).

WOMEN'S NOTES.

By MISS GRACE COLMAN

(Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Hallam Division).

THE annual business of electing one-third of the members of the City Council is nearly upon us once more, and all good citizens should be considering their responsibilities as voters. Many people who go to the poll in a Parliamentary election do not bother in a municipal election, because they think it does not matter. Last November not quite half of the people of Sheffield had a vote. Local Government vote used it, and though this is better than some places, it is not nearly good enough. Certainly, the work of a City Council is less spectacular than that of Parliament, but it is nearly, if not quite, as important in the everyday lives of the people. In relation to housing, education, the care of mothers and children, hospital services, sanitation, it has powers and duties which are vital to the well-being of the city. At the present time, with a reactionary Government at Westminster, in many directions the use of those powers, and the carrying out of duties, are hindered in the interests of "economy," but even so much can be done, as it is in Sheffield, for instance, in the feeding of school-children. And, on the other hand, when we have a really progressive Government in power, that Government will find its work seriously handicapped if City Councils and other local bodies are controlled by reactionary majorities.

WHAT IS WISE SPENDING?

One of the war cries of the so-called "Progressives" during the elections, and I would, therefore, suggest that we consider very carefully what the rates spent on. This year the average rates levied over the whole city is 15s. 7d., and if we look at some of the main items of expenditure we shall see that, out of this total, together with Government grants, 3s. 9d. is spent on

education, 2s. 4d. on the hospitals, tuberculosis, maternity, and other health services, 1s. 0d. on highways and street improvements, 1s. 1d. on removal of refuse, 7d. on sewerage. On the other hand one of the smallest items is housing, only 3d. Are not all these services necessary to the physical and mental well-being of the people, and could not some of them, especially health services, housing, and education, be developed with great advantage? We have to get away from the idea, still so firmly fixed in many minds, that the first duty of the City Council is to cut down its spending, and to see that, while waste and extravagance must be avoided, the real test of this spending is not how great or how little it is, but that the people gain from it in health and happiness. It would not be true economy, for instance, to spend money on the treatment of tuberculosis while cutting down expenditure on school-feeding and housing, since under-feeding and over-crowding are two main causes of the disease whose victims we are trying to cure.

THE COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

To go back to the rates, I have not mentioned the largest item of spending, that of 7s. 11d. on public assistance. The cost of outdoor relief has increased heavily during the last three years, mainly because more unemployed people have been forced to apply for relief, owing to the cuts in unemployment benefit in 1931, disallowance of benefit, and so on. While we believe that the relief of unemployment is a service which should be taken over by the State, it is quite certain that, until this is done, the cost of public assistance cannot be cut down at the expense of the unemployed.

Sheffield can be made a beautiful and happy city, and women, with the care of their homes and children at heart, have a special interest and duty in making it so. Let us do our part in giving our co-operative and Labour representatives a strong majority, so that, even under the present difficult circumstances, they can continue the good work they have begun.

CREMATION AND LOCAL INCOME TAX.

COUNCILLOR GANDY made his annual proposal at the last Council meeting that Corporation golf courses should be opened on Sundays. I was surprised that a man with his interests in life should want them opening even on week-days! For what, after all, is golf but a glorified game of marbles played by people who won't bend down to it?

BOREDOM.

The monthly Council meeting is very largely a formal affair, and much of it a sheer waste of time. It is not nearly as business-like as it ought to be, and many of the speeches are merely inane and pointless. Some of the speakers speak a lot too often, and thereby lose any reputation they ever had! Certainly one of the best efforts at the last Council—though we believe it was read—was the statement made by Councillor T. Eaton.

CREMATION.

We are not thinking of members of the Council of course, when we suggest that cremation should be popularised. Neither are we suggesting that anybody should at once, without a thought, try to cremate his own body. The Corporation crematories 386 people had been buried during the five weeks ended August 3rd, 1934, and only ten cremated. No cremation is cheaper, cleaner, and healthier for the living—and has as many traditions. The Parks and Burial Grounds Committee might consider popularising the idea of cremation—and we leave it to them to find the ways and means of making it attractive. But committee whose minutes in the very next paragraph can state that permission "is granted for the use of a site in the borough," Part by Bartram Mills' Circus "shouldn't easily be beaten.

MORE RAIN.

The water position is now secure till next summer, although the dams are not at present so nearly full as they should be. The Corporation has already cut down their use of water by about 13 per cent, which was an excellent response to the request for economy. Local authorities have now developed their water resources as fully as may be, and the next step rests with the national authority. Water must be made available in pure and abundant supplies everywhere on purely co-operative principles—otherwise the price will be too high.

TRANSPORT.

The Transport Committee is, we think, badly named. It has to do with passenger transport only, and if it keeps to its present name, might consider the delivery of goods to suburban termini once again. It is time, too, that dogs were permitted under proper restrictions upon tramways—perhaps on the top only, and for certain periods of the day. Walkie route, in particular, should be reduced to a penny the whole way—not unreasonable in view of many of the 14d. routes. In very hot weather the drivers and conductors wear uniforms which use too heavy, and some consideration must be given to their comfort. A successful public service will not only fail to make profits, by charging low rates, and put the convenience of the customer in the first rank, but it will give regular consideration to the workpeople and staff. These hints are thrown out, not as criticisms, but as points for consideration.

PROFIT

Speaking of low prices brings to mind the supply of electricity. Very naturally, the benefits of experience, of large-scale production, increased and thoroughly organised supply are being reaped, and existing prices are too high. Profits are too high, and the department are subject to income tax, hence, apart from the fact that it is not necessary to make profits in a Corporation department, it is also a definite way of losing money by unfair taxation. Like co-operative movements, co-operative trading departments should not be charged with income tax.

The proposed reductions will come up for consideration at the next Council meeting, and we hope all citizens will be pleased with them. Meanwhile, £88,000 to profit will be applied to pay off

borrowed moneys beyond what is necessarily repayable this year, and £75,000 has been put aside to pay for show-runs at various parts of Sheffield. It is quite true we had many show-runs in view of the size of the show, and all kinds of fittings can be seen where accounts paid. It is desirable also that far more commotionless and central premises should be available for the city showroom.

GROWTH OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION.

In 1924 19,000,000 units were for private lighting and heating, and in 1934 the figure had risen to 73,000,000. Public lighting increased in the same period from 250,000 to 1,750,000 units. Despite bad trade, the increase in power consumption was from 109,000,000 to 149,000,000; and a total of 20,779,000 units had grown into 124,819,000. Undoubtedly the second half of the whole period is one of increasing success.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The continuing failure of the Government to handle this really national problem is saddening Sheffield and other municipalities with a load of difficulties. Alderman Blanchard's 76s. rate has just been put to meet the expenditure, but this lurch-up has not been an attempt to do as little as possible for the unemployed is unsatisfactory to the furthest degree.

RATES OR INCOME TAX.

Councillor Bingham's resolution, approving the principle of a local income tax in place of rates came right at the end of the meeting, and the Progressives were making for home. After the case had been put, Alderman Blanchard spoke on something else altogether, evidently under a misapprehension. Anyway, he in no way influenced the vote, which was only in support.

If traders want justice in the matter of rates, this is their strongest case. They cannot expect preferential treatment, but, obviously, they should not be rated at all where they are at present making losses. Their National Government has left them in the lurch; it is their own fault. They had done anything to relieve them, except make an absurd suggestion which they well knew was hopeless.

The tradesman and the householder, as such, should not be charged according to the annual value of the premises they occupy, but according to the income they enjoy. That is a case which will be fully stated in the appropriate place, and for a time being both had better think it over.

FLATS.

By the time these lines are in print, the development of housing on entirely new lines, fit to compare with what has been done in Vienna, will no doubt be announced. If it is to justify its place of power, it must show continuous courage, imagination, and vision. We cannot be content to do just what the other people do, even if we do it better. There must be vast changes in every department of municipal activity, fringing up very definitely towards Socialist ideas so far as they can be expressed in local government. Who shall be Lord Mayor does not really matter; that Sheffield shall be "beter every day, in every way," is of paramount importance. Co-operation is not merely a particular way of trading, it is first and foremost a spirit of service which seeks to reshape all our activities so that they shall be for the fullest and most intelligent use, and never for private profit.

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES. MILK—DANGER TO YOUR CHILD.

CO-OPERATIVE SAFEGUARDS.

By J. W. HOLLAND.

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Labour Party, in pursuance of their usual policy of open-air meetings, have held a series of successful meetings during the month of September; the following is the programme arranged for October:

Tuesday, 9th—Pease-road and James-street. Speakers: Councillor J. Whittington and Mr. A. Fullard.

Wednesday, 10th—Shitbridge-street. Speakers: Councillor W. Cooke and Councillor J. H. Bingham.

Thursday, 11th—Dunlop-street and Carbrook-street (junction). Speakers: Mr. J. H. Pease and Councillor T. Eaton.

Tuesday, 16th—Ardmore-street and Cundow-street. Speakers: Councillor J. Ayre and Mrs. Eva.

Wednesday, 17th—Birch-road and Stoke-street. Speakers: Mr. C. Dickinson and Councillor W. Cooke.

BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Divisional Council held a very successful meeting on September 22nd, when Councillor C. T. Richardson gave an interesting report on City Council work, dealing more especially with electricity, housing, and Public Assistance. Keen interest was displayed in the report, and the discussion, and the questions asked showed that our Brightside friends are keenly watching the city's affairs in anticipation of the election. A resolution was subsequently carried suggesting "That workers from fourteen to sixteen years of age be entitled to reduced tram fares."

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute, Bellhouse-road, at 7 p.m.

The Burgess Women's Section meetings are held every Wednesday in the Burgess Vestry Hall at 7.30 p.m. We regret to report that the secretary (Mrs. Velland) is ill at the present time.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Party commenced the winter session with a "Mock Cutlers' Feast and Concert, in the Institute, on September 19th. The specialties were delivered by Mr. Harold Slack (secretary, Cutlers' Union) as "Master Cutler," Mr. A. Ballard as "Lord Mayor," Mr. Buttery as the "Russian Ambassador," and Mr. Taylor as the "U.S.A. Ambassador." To have listened to these addresses one would have thought that the Master Cutlers were ideal employees, that all was "merry and bright" in U.S.A. and Russia, and that Sheffield needed no further improvement to make it equal to any Continental resort. Mrs. M. A. Brooker made a splendid M.C. Mr. A. Grenville was responsible for the arrangements, and the Institute was tastefully

decorated to suit the occasion. The Institute orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. O. Barron, was responsible for an excellent musical programme, and the audience sang a number of songs, which were received with hearty appreciation.

On the 20th, the first of the usual meetings was held, when Mr. J. H. Pease and Mr. Harold Slack took the Municipal matters. The executive committee was put before the elected as the Hillsborough candidates for the forthcoming Municipal Election in Overton, and Mr. J. H. Pease for Hillsborough.

There was also a good gathering at the meeting held on the 25th. Programme for October: 4th, Councillor Mrs. Cumming on "Lessons from Carbrook"; 11th, Councillor W. G. Robinson will be the speaker; and on the 18th, the official adoption meeting for the Municipal candidates will be held. Meetings commence 7.45 p.m., in the Institute, every Thursday.

The women's section meetings have not been attended during September. Meetings for October: 1st, Social; 8th, Mr. Harold Slack will be the speaker; 15th, Rt. Hon. A. W. Alexander; 22nd and 29th, meetings will be cancelled owing to Municipal Election campaigns. **NEEPSEND.**

The Neepsend Ward Committee held a public meeting on September 5th, and on the 12th Councillor E. W. J. Stokes gave the City Council report to a large gathering. On October 20th Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., is to be the speaker.

The women's section have continued their weekly meetings, on Monday afternoons, during September. **OCTOBER PROGRAMME:** 1st, monthly social; 8th, Councillor J. Ayre will be the speaker; and on the 15th, Mrs. S. E. Keane, secretary, Brightside and Carbrook Education Committee, will address the members. On the 22nd and 29th, meetings will be cancelled owing to the Municipal Election campaign.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The monthly meeting of the Southey and Norwood Party was held on September 12th, when Councillor Mrs. J. Good discussed followed, in which several new amenities on the estate were suggested, and Mrs. Speight kindly promised to make representation to the proper authorities. The members claim to have secured many improvements in the area as a result of their interest in the citizens' welfare. The alterations of fares now awaiting the traffic commissioners' consent, and a number of other matters which are receiving the attention of the authorities. Meetings are now being held weekly in the Guildford, Sontley-avenue, at 7.30 p.m. An interesting programme has been arranged for October 8th, last two Wednesday nights, the meetings will be cancelled in favour of the Municipal Election campaign.

The women's section meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon in the Guildford.

SHEFFIELD AND ECLESALL.

We regret that the secretary, Mr. G. H. Green, has had to resign owing to domestic circumstances. A meeting to elect a new secretary, and arrange the forthcoming programme, will be held on the 20th, at 7.30 p.m. The alterations to the institute on Monday, October 8th, at 8.45 p.m., when Mr. A. Ballard, the Party organizer, will attend. Members and prospective members are cordially invited.

The women's section conclude their meetings at the Mount Tabor class-room on October 4th, and will commence at the new Napier-street Institute on the 11th, at 7.30 p.m. The alterations to the institute on Monday, October 8th, at 8.45 p.m., when Mr. A. Ballard, the Party organizer, will attend. Members and prospective members are cordially invited to join up immediately. Secretary: Mrs. J. Millan, 46, Brierley-road, Sheffield, 12.

On October 21st a new policy was commenced enabling upwards of three million school children each to be provided with half-pint of milk per day at a charge of 1d. We regret, however, that it is not to be tubercular-free milk. Grade A milk is even compulsorily pasteurised milk.

As a community, we have gone a long way since the end of the war period to secure a national milk supply, but it is equally important that that supply should be clean as far as possible; free from any taint of tuberculosis—that deadly human scourge which has stricken far too many of our citizens.

The effort to get this supply to our children is one worthy of every encouragement. Milk is a very valuable and essential food for the children, but it is useless to ignore the dangers of contamination caused by insufficient safeguards which can, and must, be applied.

Any cow with the slightest suspicion of disease should not be used for the production of milk. Tubercular tests graded "A" should be the standard aimed at. Whilst this may seem a difficult ideal at the moment it is essential that the Government, at the least, see that their children have milk coming from clean farms, such as supply the co-operative societies. Moreover, the pasteurisation itself is a guarantee of purity.

Evidence in support of this contention is to be found in the observations made by Councillor Bridgland at the September meeting of the Sheffield City Council when he drew attention to tests, as reported in the Annual Health Report of the city, showing that whilst in 1932 7.4 per cent of the mixed sample tested positive for bovine tubercle bacilli, and in 1933 9.2 per cent, pasteurised milk was found each year to be free of bovine tubercle bacilli. Farmers often claim that it is foolish to talk of tubercular possibilities as suggested, but the following copy of letter sent to "The People's League of Health" by eminent physicians, cannot help but convince any person not already biased by rotten sense:—

The Editor, October 26th, 1933.

"The People's League of Health,"
12, Stratford-place,
London, W. 1.

Dear Sir,

According to a report published in several of the newspapers of the 19th instant, one of the speakers at a recent meeting of the British Dairy Farmers' Association informed his audience that "The talk of conveying bovine tuberculosis to human beings by milk was all humbug."

To protect the public from this misleading and inaccurate statement, we desire to put on record the following propositions as established beyond the reach of challenge:

1. That raw milk, as it present distributed for human consumption, shows on an average presence of living tubercle bacilli in some 6 to 7 per cent of the specimens examined.
2. That about 2,000 children die annually from tuberculous infection of bovine origin, while many others suffer disabling and deforming illnesses.
3. That these disasters are due mainly, if not entirely, to the infection of children through the milk supply; and
4. That pasteurisation, properly performed, or failing this, boiling of the milk, reduces the number of tuberculous and other milk-borne infections to the vanishing point.

For these propositions there exists a body of well-authenticated evidence,

and the public interest demands that they shall be plainly stated and authoritatively affirmed.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient servants,
DAWSON OF PENN.
HONDER.
MOWBRAY,
FREDERICK T. G. HOBDAV,
WILLIAM G. SAVAGE, M.D.

Whilst Councillor Bridgland was speaking of the value of pasteurisation, a solicitor alderman—prominent for his efforts on behalf of the milk trade—interjected with the remark: "Why not boil it then?" This is one of those foolish remarks, the absurdity of which is difficult to overstate, but an example from the steel trade will show the point I am making. In the manufacture of steel we often employ a method of heating it, after rolling or forging to a certain temperature. This is called annealing or tempering. Imagine, if you can, anyone stating "Why not melt it?" We know that to melt it would destroy the object aimed at, yet to heat it to a certain point only improves the texture and value of the steel. Likewise of the milk. To heat it to a certain point gives certain valuable safeguards, but to boil it would reduce its efficacy as a beverage and food. Pasteurising destroys the disease-producing organisms only.

Since 1925, when Councillor Ashby became chairman of the Health Committee, every advantage has been taken of the powers possessed by the local authority to ensure a clean food supply for our city. Councillor Ashby has been particularly keen with regard to milk, for in spite of a good deal of opposition from the local farmers, the milk supply of our city now has a higher standard of cleanliness. Some farmers have readily acted in accordance with the advice given by our sanitary inspectors, others were not so amenable. The milk supply of our city now is better than it has ever been before. Pasteurisation gives an added safety.

Under the new scheme for the supply of milk to local authorities the price may be fixed, so that other factors may have to be considered when the contracts are allotted. The co-operative societies are now supplying 37 per cent of the total milk supply to our city from two modern plants where pasteurisation is carried out under hygienic conditions, and the workers employed receiving trade union terms of wages. These factors should be considered by the citizens in the purchase of their milk. So far as the children are concerned, see that the supply is from the "Co-op." "Safety First" on the road is an excellent slogan; "Safety First" in milk is an equally good motto.

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THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

This annual report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health makes it clear that unemployment has had a much more serious effect on the condition of the people than the Government is prepared to admit. It is true that Sir George Newman finds that "the general health and nutrition of the population on the whole was well maintained." But the report provides ample evidence of a serious decline of health in the industrial areas.

"There was distress and deprivation, physical and mental" in the distressed areas, states the report. Sixteen replies from Regional Medical Officers indicated that there were substantial ill-effects from unemployment in their districts. "The commonest condition noted as a possible ill-effect of unemployment is a slowness of recovery-reaction after illness. The next commonest . . . is a general incapacity for work . . . chiefly attributed to loss of muscular and mental tone . . . or mental depression due to worry and anxiety."

Sir George Newman is convinced that malnutrition is not widespread or increasing. He adds, however: "We must not . . . be too readily assured of the future. Physical deterioration may appear at any time. Furthermore, his comment that "the detection of malnutrition involves reliance . . . on subjective impressions, cuts both ways. As the Manchester Guardian" points out, it is just as likely that the Regional Officers of the Ministry of Health have been optimistic in their findings as that local medical officers have exaggerated the extent of malnutrition. In this connection, some important points are made in the Memorandum sent to the Unemployment Assistance Board by the Children's Mainwain Committee. After recalling that as many as 24.5 per 1,000 children were reported as showing definite signs of under-nourishment in the latest report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, the Memorandum goes on to say that the provision of school meals is not adequate to prevent malnutrition in existing circumstances. Only 190 out of the 326 local education authorities use their powers to provide free meals, and only 4 per cent. of the children attending school benefit from such provision.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Other unsatisfactory items from the report are the prevalence of bad health among children of one to five, and among adolescents of fifteen to twenty, and the rise in the rate of maternal mortality. The latter is now 1.52, as compared with 4.25 per 1,000 last year. Deaths in 21 actual child-bearing, but associated with it, bring the figure up to 5.94. Out of 805,000 women who gave birth, only 220,000 attended ante-natal centres. Comment was made on the overcrowding which is allowed to take place in maternity hospitals, and the efficiency of maternity services is given in many infant welfare centres. Centres should teach by example as well as by precept," says Sir George Newman. He might have added that the efficiency of local services has been impaired by the "economy" policy of the National Government.

PASSING OF WILLIAM YOUNG

On September 15th there was laid to rest, at Burngrave Cemetery, a well-known co-operative and Labour worker, Mr. William Young. For fifty-nine years of his life were full of service as a helper, speaker, &c., in the cause of democracy, first at Alfreton, and at Aftercliffe, and during the past few years as a member of the co-operative and Labour organisation on the Southey estate.

The Co-operative Party always found in him one ready to help, and his many activities, in spite of his physical handicap, were appreciated as far afield as Penistone. He initiated, along with others, the adult school on the estate, being secretary in the early stages of this new successful venture. He remained a member, attending only a few weeks before his death.

To his wife and family all co-operative friends will extend their deepest sympathy. His wish certainly would have been that his life-work should be an urge to those who are left to carry on "not cease from mental strife . . . till we have built Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land."

There was a good number present to pay their last tribute of respect at the funeral, amongst whom were: Councillor J. A. Longden, Mr. G. A. Holder (Co-operative Party), Messrs. Hague, Renshaw, Peckett, and Road (Labour Party), Mr. J. W. Holland (Brightside) and Carbrook board of management, and Messrs. Wood and Gardiner (Adult School Movement).

HOUSING IN SHEFFIELD.

Labour's Forward Policy.

By ALDERMAN C. W. GASCOIGNE.

It would be a very blind person who could not see that housing problems will be one of the chief issues of contention at the next municipal election, despite the lip-service to making this a non-party question. Labour's opponents have shown a complete lack of being able to hide the fact of their meagre achievements and lack of a forward policy as far as the provision of houses are concerned.

It may as well be emphasised, however, that the Labour policy is 100% in advance of the progressive, or to be precise, 2,000 houses per annum for slum clearance as against the 1,000 promised under pressure by our opponents, and it should be further made clear that but for the reactionary policy of the present Government in withholding the subsidy for houses other than those for slum clearance, the programme of ordinary houses at 7,000 per year would have been continued until the provision of houses was sufficient to meet the demands.

If any reader is without a house and living in rooms, or overcrowded conditions, let him write to the Government and the local Progressive Party, who have made it impossible to meet their legitimate demands.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SUBSIDIES.

Efforts, however, are being made, and will continue to be made, to divide the working classes into two sections: those in corporation houses and those outside. Perfectly atrocious statements have been made suggesting that persons in private property in receipt of 42 per cent. were contributing 1s. 6d. to 2s. towards the rent of persons in Corporation houses who were receiving as much as 45 per week. The only proper answer to this is to state that it is a deliberate and calculated lie, which bears not the faintest resemblance to the facts of the case.

NO PERSONAL SUBSIDIES.

1. No person living in Corporation property is subsidised at all, the subsidy which was first inaugurated by the Coalition Government was only given because houses could not be built without it, and has been continued and amended by successive Governments because

Private enterprise was either unable or unwilling to produce houses without the subsidy, and are, incidentally, still failing to erect houses to let in this city.

The Government at the present is contributing £3 10s. per annum, providing a subsidy of £3 15s. per week, not to the person, but so that the house can be let at rents which working-class persons can afford to pay. It is an admitted fact that in many cases the subsidy has been taken advantage of by builders to increase the cost of building and the providers of building material to the advanced prices for their materials, in consequence of which, after the war, the building ramp reached to the stage of being a positive scandal.

HALFPENNY PER WEEK.

2. Alarming mis-statements as to the cost of the local ratepayers of the provision of houses are being circulated. The City Treasurer, in his epitome of accounts, officially declares that the cost is 3d. in the pound, or at a person living in a house rated at, say, £10 rateable value, the total cost per week would be slightly over 3d., and not the ridiculous figure of 1s. 6d. to 2s., which has been used in this regard.

It can scarcely be claimed that this is too much to pay for the upkeep of Corporation now possessed. Or to be precise again, the person in a non-divided house is paying, out of 10d. divided by 17,000, towards the upkeep

of each Corporation house. Put this way, all the stories of corrupt bribery and vote-catching assume the ludicrous proportions which really belong to them.

LABOUR'S REMEDY.

3. What about the houses being occupied by the wrong persons, those who have big incomes thrusting out those who are really needy. The first common one is compelled to make it that if all these irregularities were present how comes it that during the last municipal year, when the Progressive Party had an ample majority, they made no attempt to put it right? They could have turned out all the affluent people who are supposed to be in these houses and put other tenants in. The real fact is that the most remarkable feature of our estates is the poverty of the tenants who are grazing under the burden of the heavy rents. Between 300 and 400 are totally dependent on the Public Assistance Committee, and many who are not yet reduced to this position are in severe straits. In the main the right people are tenants, and the real need of the Labour group are determined to satisfy is for a reduction of rents.

THE POLICY OF THE LABOUR PARTY IS:

1. The total abolition of all the slums at the rate of 2,000 per annum.
2. A reduction of the rents of Corporation houses as interest charges allow, to rents within the reach of the workers.
3. Only the best standard of houses for the workers.
4. As soon as the National Government will allow the provision of sufficient houses to provide one for every family in the city.

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**HILLSBOROUGH DIVISIONAL
LABOUR PARTY.**

HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEK.

The Hillsborough Divisional Labour Party have held a series of successful meetings during September. The harvest festival celebrations, from the 7th to the 13th, were well attended. September 8th, Alderman F. Thraives, J.P., took the services, and spoke in large and appreciative audiences. Council of the commodities at the sale on Monday, whilst Mr. Wilson acted as auctioneer. Through the good offices of Councilor Stokes, a splendid variety programme was arranged. The jumble sale, organized by the women's section, raised the record receipts of the week, and a grand carnival on the Thursday was also a success, thoroughly enjoyed by the youngsters. Friday, however, was the high light of the week's proceedings, when the Mock Parliament, under the "premiership" of Mr. Harold Mitchell, was held. "The Sedition Bill" was carried. Saturday night's "whist drive concluded a very successful week.

WALKLEY WARD.

The Walkley Ward section have run a number of open-air meetings. Mr. F. H. Skelland, the candidate, has endeavored himself to the electors of Walkley by his frankness, sincerity, and his well-informed addresses. Councilors Mrs. Mitchell and Jack Sicketon have also taken part, and the membership is steadily increasing.

The new session will commence on October 4th with a concert and social, arranged by Mr. J. E. O'Brien. Members and friends are cordially invited, admission free. On the 11th, Mr. Skelland will be the speaker.

The women's section meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays in each month, at the Labour Hall, Sherde-road, and commence at 2-30 p.m. Invitations are extended to all Walkley women to join the organisation.

OWLERTON.

The Owlerton Ward is running whist drives every Saturday night in the Labour Hall, Blackburn Farm, Penistone-road.

RIGHT HON.
A. V. ALEXANDER.

SUCCESSFUL OPEN-AIR
MEETINGS.

The Right Hon. A. V. Alexander spent a very busy week during his visit to Hillsborough on September 13th and 14th, addressing no less than nine open-air meetings, all of which were well attended. Councilor J. W. Thorburn, Councilor Mrs. Speight, Mr. Thraives, Mr. J. Habeshaw, Mr. Skelland, and Mrs. Fletcher assisted.

Mr. Alexander was able to expose the National Government's failure to deal with the outstanding social problems of the day, speaking convincingly of the effect of the Quota restrictions, tariffs' Marketing Acts, &c., and showing how prices were being increased, and the consequent taxation falling very heavily on the working-classes had been increased in order to relieve income-tax payers and increase the fighting services at a time when people were demanding an increasing measure of disarmament.

The reception Mr. Alexander secured at all his meetings indicated that the Hillsborough people were waiting the opportunity to send him back to the opportunity of Commons, where he did such splendid work for nearly ten years.

As advertised in another part of this journal, Mr. Alexander is visiting the constituency again, when, in addition to the 13th, 14th and 15th, when he will speak at the Hillsborough afternoon Brotherhood on the Sunday afternoon of the 14th, and will preside at the Women's Club on the 15th, when a concert is to be given in support of the Manor House Hospital, of which Mr. Alexander is president.

EASY BIOLOGY.

"THE A B C OF BIOLOGY,"

By C. M. Yonge.

Kegan Paul, 45, 6d. net.

In these days, everybody ought to know something about most things. The cultivation of the reading habit, the increasing demands of life, and the output of simpler books all combine to make a wider knowledge possible. A little may, under certain circumstances, be a dangerous thing, but total ignorance is worse. The man who knows just sufficient about a gun to keep the muzzle pointed away from him has but small knowledge of firearms—but his little knowledge is definitely a useful thing.

WHAT IS THE USE?

What is the use of reading biology, anyway? Well, in the first place it opens out an entirely new set of ideas. The widening of outlook is just as real as when one goes to France or Germany for the first time. It is the revelation of a new country. It has an element of wonder and surprise, and a sense of real adventure. It is good that men should have the curtains of Nature drawn for them, and stand in astonishment before what they see. "That one man should die ignorant, who had capacity for knowledge—that I call a tragedy," wrote Carlyle, and he was right. That he any man should walk the path of life to its end, and not be arrested by wonders and beauties which lie about him, is a tragedy to him and a loss to his social value.

BLOOD-RELATIONS.

In biology, however, there is the important fact that this is the story of the lives of our blood-relations and in part of ourselves. It is a knowledge of biology that has led, for example, to the suppression of plagues, to a supply of apples all the year round, and to the abolition of a great deal of superstition and fear. This means the possibility of larger satisfaction in life—when we have sense enough to handle economic affairs with the same reasonableness

that is shown in applications of the facts of biology.

Plants and animals are our blood-relations; we need to know how they are controlled for our good; which means first finding how they "work."

MACHINERY.

Machinery may seem to be remote from the living thing; but the ball-joint and the lever were built up in the frames of animals long before man thought of them. The heart valve is a very efficient engine that can keep up its pulsations for as long as eighty years without a break! The valve, the pulley, and the armoured hose are all found in plant and animal structures, and the most delicate adjustments of highly elaborate gadgets function perfectly in our bodies.

INTERFERING.

Besides, one of the chief pleasures of life is interfering with Nature. The gardener "crosses" his plants; biology will guide him in the doing of this. The cattle breeder—for commercial purposes—wants cows to give more milk, or sheep to give more wool, or larger joints of mutton with less bone; biology is his guide. The best insect-poisoner and fur preservative is also a matter of biology and chemistry.

MOVABLE LIMITS.

This clearly-written summary of the science of biology will show the novice how very much men have found out; it will do what all knowledge should do. It will show them some of the things which yet remain to be discovered. Much is known, but even so the light we have is but a dim taper. There is an endless Continent awaiting exploration, and to those with enthusiasm and vigour there is adventure equal to that which fell to the lot of the venturers of Elizabethan times. The world is mapped, but it has unlimited fields full of danger and enchantment. The sciences are the gates thereto, and happy the young man who, entranced by the tale that Professor Yonge here unfolds, pursues the path with diligence.

But to those who seek something of intelligent refreshment, and delight in wonder, this book has a great use, too.

B.

THINGS THAT CONCERN US ALL

FOR YOU!

The productive industry of the C.W.S. is the core of English co-operation. If the core withers away, co-operation loses its most valuable principle—the production by organized consumers of their own requirements.

The C.W.S. factories and workshops produce almost everything needed to serve human needs—Food, Clothing, Furniture, and other commodities.

It is for you, as a member of this progressive movement, to see that the articles you buy at your Co-operative Society are made by the C.W.S. Say "C.W.S.," and look for the name of the C.W.S. on everything you buy.

Increase your purchases of C.W.S. Goods
and increase your dividend.



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

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY MAKES FOOD DEARER.

PENALISING THE POOR.

FIGURES given in the "Board of Trade Journal" record a substantial rise in wholesale prices which is not merely seasonal. The average of wholesale prices during August showed a rise of 2.1 per cent. over July, and of 3.1 per cent. over August of last year. In 1932 the rise for the corresponding period of the year was only 0.1 per cent.

Food prices increased by as much as 61 per cent. as compared with last month, the index for the cereal group actually showing a rise of 11.8 per cent., the result of restrictive economics. A comparison of the 150 price averages for August with those relating to July reveals sixty-four increases, of which thirty-six are articles of food. Of the thirty-six increases for food, fourteen were of less than 5 per cent., ten were of between 5 per cent. and 15 per cent., seven were of between 15 per cent. and 25 per cent., and five were of between 25 per cent. and 37 per cent. The inevitable repercussion on retail prices has already raised the level of the latter by four points.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Searching criticisms of the levy on the poor involved in the Government's agricultural policy were made by a speaker in the economics section of the British Association meeting, and by the president of the Northern Council of the Retail Grocers' Federations.

Mr. R. B. Bryce, at the British Association, speaking on the wheat situation, said that what control had, in effect, been a taxation of one part

of the community to subsidise another. "The burden has fallen most heavily on the poor, as the biggest bread consumers. There would seem to be a case for passing on the cost. The subsidy cannot be said to be a real cost of producing wheat. It is a cost of maintaining agriculture, and there would seem to be a case for distributing it a little more equitably on the basis of general rather than on the poor, by raising the cost of bread."

Last month an extra halfpenny was added to the price of the quarter loaf—the result of this unfair method of subsidizing agriculture at the expense of the consumer.

A RETAILER'S INDICTMENT.

The bacon quota scheme has almost eliminated a wholesome and important article of food from the working class diet. Speaking on the Government's policy in this respect, in his presidential address at the Annual Conference of the Northern Council of Grocers' Associations, on September 12th, Mr. J. Gregory said that as a result of the scheme many grocers in working-class districts, who had built up a bacon trade on mild cured continental bacon at a reasonable price, had been deprived of these supplies, and their customers could not afford to buy bacon at the price now ruling.

"It is no satisfaction," he added, "to a miner, whose wages have been reduced, to know that while he and his family cannot afford to buy bacon in the quantity they need, the British Government's quota scheme is putting money into the pockets of the Canadian packing industry, which is largely under American financial control." Mr. Gregory also pointed out that those who embarked on the policy of artificial restriction made the mistake of assuming that the existing demand was normal and incapable of expansion at a time when thousands of people were short of food, clothing, and shelter.

It is not only in the North that complaints are being made about the rise in the price of bacon. In the South, also, the housewife is obliged to pay a pound more. Comparing the first seven months of this year with the same period in 1932, it can be seen that this country is now receiving 2,000,000 cwts. less bacon, at an extra cost of over £7,000,000. New restriction schemes for eggs and potatoes threaten the consumer with higher prices for these commodities also. The poorest sections of the community are being hit hardest by the National Government's policy of raising prices by creating an artificial scarcity.

ARMAMENT FIRM'S HUGE PROFITS.

MORE DISCLOSURES AT UNITED STATES ARMS INQUIRY.

FURTHER startling disclosures have been made at the United States Senate inquiry into the armaments trade. On September 12th the well-known American armament firm, Dupont de Nemours, was under examination. It was stated that in 1931 this firm's profits were £800,000. When the war started they received enormous orders for smokeless powder, and in the year 1931 their war orders totalled more than £50,000,000.

Over the whole war period this firm's sales of munitions totalled more than £400,000,000. The returns on capital were 23 per cent. in 1915, 63 per cent. in 1916, and 35 per cent. in 1917.

Between 1914 and 1916 the firm's invested capital, mainly loaned by the governments who were its customers, jumped from £7,000,000 to £50,000,000. The French Government paid the firm 63 per cent. higher prices for smokeless powder to cover the cost of building new factories.

The Washington correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph," in reporting that day's proceedings of the inquiry, mentioned that Mr. Pierre Dupont, chairman of the firm, wore the red ribbon of the Legion of Honour.

Later in the proceedings it was disclosed, in a report by a European representative of the Dupont firm, that arms are being smuggled into Germany—chiefly from America—to both Communists and Nazis. These arms are transhipped in the River Scheldt to barges before the vessels arrive at Antwerp, and then pass through Holland without interference from the Dutch authorities.

Another revelation was the existence of a "gentlemen's agreement" between Dupont's and the German D.A.G., or "Explosive Trust." "The Times" correspondent reported that Mr. Lamont Dupont insisted that this agreement dealt with commercial and not military explosives. But Senator Clark, a member of the Commission, after a long cross-examination, drew the conclusion that Germany might, if she should be active in the military sense to-morrow, find herself the stronger for processes and patents secured from the American firm.

"A HELL OF A BUSINESS."

It appears that at least one person engaged in the traffic in death had qualms of conscience. A letter was read from Mr. Frank Jones, representing the Remington Arms Company. The letter was written from Argentina to an official of the Curtis-Wright

Export Company, whose business is to sell military planes to foreign countries. It stated:—

Paraguay and Bolivia firms appear to be coming to a termination. No business from that end is probably of a business, where a fellow has to wish for trouble in order to make a living.

In connection with the Export Company's activities in Bolivia, it was stated that the firm ensured the sale of planes by employing a high Government official as a "silent partner," and that a British and Dutch firm had offered gifts to the official to try to oust the American firm.

A selling agent of the company was sent to Mexico on a special mission. He reported that he had offered a loan car to the chief engineer in charge of the shops of the Mexican Government if the firm got the order for planes. "This country has been neglected," he added, "and I wish I could remain here a little longer."

In view of the nature of these disclosures it is not to be wondered that other Governments are stated to have tried to gag the inquiry. But the facts already brought to light are more than sufficient to justify the demand for the abolition of the private manufacturer and trade in armaments.

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LABOUR PARTY AND PEACE.

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VAGARIES OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

ACCORD problems of party discipline, party tactics, and party policy have exercised the annual conference of the Labour Party at Southampton this week. The conference has been one of the most important in the recent history of the party.

The political atmosphere of to-day is charged with the electricity of an approaching election. Over-shadowing as already this situation is the breakdown of political democracy over large areas of Europe, and a sharper militancy and aggressiveness on the part of those who would destroy democracy in Britain.

Under such circumstances the Labour Party has to proceed with caution. At Southampton it has had to determine the broad lines of policy to which it will fight the next election. That task has been productive of controversy inside its own ranks. The session of the I.L.P. has not settled the argument as to speed and method in the achievement of Socialism. It has simply shifted the spotlight from Maxton to Cripps, from the I.L.P. to the Socialist League.

The latter takes over the old I.L.P. cry of "Socialism in Our Time"; it takes over a good deal of the I.L.P. philosophy in its abandonment of the League of Nations and the collective peace system; it is all for the general strike as a means of averting war; and, generally, it seems to stand for a policy of short, sharp, swift, and if necessary, ruthless action to usher in the millennium. To borrow motoring terminology, the Socialist League wants to "step on the gas" along the road to Socialism and "trust to sheer speed and power to get over the rough patches." The Labour Party executive thinks it can get there just as quickly by a more even speed and by negotiating the rough patch according to the degree of roughness and the (electoral) power behind the engine.

In passing, the Socialist League also seems quite prepared to be as ruthless with co-operative as with private enterprise; to turn the co-operative movement upside down if need be in order to satisfy the demands of dogma.

These two divergent ideas of method and speed have been fighting it out at Southampton this week, and so far the official attitude has prevailed, backed as it is by the solid trade union vote.

A RETROGRADE POLICY.

While there is much that is valid in the Socialist League's criticism of official policy, and much that is valuable in its constructive alternatives, there is also much that is dangerous. For instance, it apparently throws overboard the League and the system of peace by collective guarantee, and puts its faith to a system of alliances with other Socialist Powers, i.e., with Russia. Quite frankly, that is a retrograde and reactionary policy. By devoting paths the Socialist League has reached the same point

as the hidebound Tory. "Throw overboard the League," says the instigator. "It is useless to us. Let us instead enter in alliances with our old friends" (France, Japan, Italy, and the expedients of current policies). "Throw overboard the League," says the Socialist

League, and let us instead have a military alliance of Socialist Powers. "Peace depends on a precarious balancing of alliances, and if history has proved anything, it has proved that no system of religion and politics has ever yet guaranteed lasting peace. The League of Nations has passed through some lamentable episodes, but if its failure in those cases is evidence of anything at all it is that statesmen as it can be used. Never yet at a time of crisis in League affairs has Britain, one of its most powerful members, been represented by Co-operative and Labour members. Instead it has men of the calibre of Sir John Simon, who, in his heart of hearts, probably does not believe in the League.

Given a powerful Labour Government in Britain the League and the collective peace system can be salvaged into effectiveness.

It is towards such a goal that the Socialist League could better direct its propaganda vigour. Incidentally, Russia rather unkindly cuts a good deal of the ground from under the feet of the Socialist League by herself coming into the despised League of Nations at just this moment. That should surely suggest to Sir Stafford Cripps and his followers that in the event of a Socialist Government in Britain there are great powers would be much more effective as guarantors of peace inside than outside the active workings of the League system.

HERESY-HUNTING.

One of the "high spots" of the opening of the conference on Monday was the debate on the "full disciplinary powers" sought by the executive to control the actions of members of the party who associate themselves with listed organisations in "United Front" or other agitations without authority from the annual party conference or the National Executive Committee to do so. The conference, rather unwisely, granted this sweeping power. Heresy-hunting has been one of the troubles of the Labour Party in recent years, and if the party is not careful it will make itself ridiculous by carrying things to extremes. Unless the executive show a very considerable measure of clarity and common-sense in exercising these new powers, and, in all deference to the party's "big guns," neither was particularly evident in the debate, then a great deal of internal friction will impair the efficiency of critical years.

The House of Lords also come in for considerable firelight on Monday. The Socialist League policy is for the immediate abolition of the Lords by the next Labour Government. The

executive prefers, wisely, to wait until the Lords start mangling Labour legislation before it throws down the gauntlet. Apparently the two sides have compromised on this issue. Sir Stafford Cripps professed himself as satisfied with this policy, plus a rather vague pledge that "sometimes" during the Government's term of office steps would be taken to abolish the Second Chamber.

REBUILDING CAPITALISM.

The inaugural address delivered by the chairman of the conference (Mr. W. R. Smith) showed a greater realisation of recent economic and legislative tendencies than has been evident in the speeches of some Labour leaders. Sections of Mr. Smith's address address given at the head of the presidential address given at the Co-operative Party Conference last Easter by Mr. Alfred Barnes. For instance, Mr. Smith said: "The upholders of the capitalist system now looked to the State for assistance in their troubles. . . . The present Government had been a veritable lifeboat for derelict or inefficient industries. It had piled subsidy upon subsidy for the benefit of landlords and farmers, but consumer interests had been flouted, and the plight of the farm worker ignored." That is what the co-operative movement has been saying for some time past, and co-operators

PASS ON THIS ISSUE OF THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR TO A NON-READER.

THANK YOU!

will welcome this evidence of Labour awakening to the new capitalism that is being built up at the expense of the taxpayer and the consumer. Expressing a belief in the united front, Mr. Smith said that it should consist of the trade union movement, the co-operative movement, and the Labour Party.

For the rest, Mr. Smith emphasised what has frequently been pointed out by the "Co-operative News," that Fascism, which naturally has bulked large in the proceedings of the conference, is nothing new. Stripped of its shirts, slogans, and whistles, it is simply the old sweating British employer of a century ago, unscrupulously jealous of anything that threatens his power and his profits. He also uttered a sentiment which will be echoed by sensible people in all parties when he said: "There is no place in British national life for any semi-militarised political movement. Experience has shown that there is no half-way house between the complete prohibition of semi-militarised politics and the general militarisation of politics."

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TAXATION OF FOOD.

PRIVATE enterprise has long ceased to be private, and in many ways is no longer enterprising.

Exactly how far the public treasury and the consumer's pocket have been searched to keep "private" interests and to promote "public" ones, is going it is difficult to ascertain. Part of the current annual bill is added up for us in a recent issue of "The Link." It is an impressive and, for the payers, an appalling total, calculated to keep "the piggy bank" going it is difficult to ascertain. Part of the current annual bill is added up for us in a recent issue of "The Link." It is an impressive and, for the payers, an appalling total, calculated to keep "the piggy bank" going it is difficult to ascertain. Part of the current annual bill is added up for us in a recent issue of "The Link." It is an impressive and, for the payers, an appalling total, calculated to keep "the piggy bank" going it is difficult to ascertain. Part of the current annual bill is added up for us in a recent issue of "The Link." It is an impressive and, for the payers, an appalling total, calculated to keep "the piggy bank" going it is difficult to ascertain.

With this condescending collection in the back of his mind the taxpayer and the consumer can consider some of the items in the aforementioned bill.

The Wheat Subsidy, which amounts to £2,000,000 per annum, is equal to a halfpenny on every quarter loaf of bread sold. Over £12,000,000 has already been paid by the public in this way. The Milk Subsidy is to cost the Government from £1,500,000 to £1,750,000 per annum—quite apart from what the Milk Marketing Scheme has cost the consumer in enhanced prices. The sugar subsidy is now likely to be passed on to the consumer at the rate of 2s. 4d. per cwt., or £1,600,000 per annum. The temporary Beef Subsidy is to cost the Government £1,000,000 in the year to £1,250,000 in six months. The bacon quota has caused consumers to pay £1,000,000 more for bacon since November, 1933.

Finally, the taxation of food since 1913 is estimated to have increased by over £20,000,000.

As a cross section of the whole vicious system, we have the fact that during 1933 the C.W.S. paid £8,123,390 in import duties on eight commodities, equal to 28 per cent. of their total wholesale value.

Is it not obvious that the whole system is fundamentally wrong and unsound? Is it not obvious that no lasting industrial or agricultural recovery can come via the impoverishment of the consuming public? Is it not obvious that whatever scarcity of State-doled profits are showered on a handful of producers and bankers, no lasting betterment can come to the workers in the most heavily subsidised industries? Co-operators know what is going on, because they can see it reflected every day in the prices of the goods going over their counters. They should take every opportunity of awakening the public to a similar knowledge. It is time the housewife was educated to a conscious realisation of the fact that she is now paying nearly 2s. for import duties in every £1 of purchases she makes.

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● Listen to what the Sheffield Medical Officer has to say in his Annual Health Report on the value of Pasteurised Milk.

"The milk of every purveyor entering the city by road or rail was sampled once during the year, the rail samples being taken at the stations, and the road samples at the city boundaries or at the farms before collection. Out of 737 samples taken, sixty-eight, or 9.2 per cent., were found by biological test to contain bovine tubercle bacilli.

"The milk from city farms was sampled twice during the year, and out of 247 samples taken, sixteen, or 6.48 per cent., were found by biological test to contain tubercle bacilli.

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