



# The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR

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## "Idealism Harnessed to Practical Politics"

The leader of the "Progressive" Party, Alderman H. W. Jackson, writes in "The Progressive Standard": "Idealism must be harnessed to practical politics to be of any use these days." We take the Alderman on his own words and suggest to the citizens of Sheffield that this is the Labour and Co-operative Policy.

We are not concerned with past achievements of Labour and Co-operation in Sheffield since 1926, though these have been many. The modernisation on reasonable human lines of the entire service for Blind People in Sheffield—not to say its Christianisation—is a startling achievement known to all. Not only so, but the causes of blindness have been tackled right at their source. Blindness is now being prevented, apart from the decent conditions under which Blind Persons now can live. There is no blind beggar on the streets of Sheffield; they have gone for ever!

We should tackle all kinds of poverty as resolutely and as effectively if we could have an equally free hand. Nothing is satisfactory in Sheffield, but most things of a civic nature are more so than they would have been if Labour had never been in power. We are held up for money, and we are held up—as are all local governing bodies—by the fact which the Government jealously guards! We want much more money, but not from the poor, from whom we are already compelled to take too much.

The raw materials are all available—but they "belong" to somebody! The labour is there, a great deal of it compelled to idleness because of our insane social system. We have twentieth-century needs and capacity to supply them; but because of an eighteenth-century financial system in general, and a fifteenth-century rating method, we do, and shall do, the utmost within those limits. And we shall use our increasing power to remove the limits. There need be no poor; Sheffield can be both a beautiful and a happy place.

### PLANNING.

Sheffield has a capable city architect, who would never think of building any new public edifice until he had first carefully planned it out. It first exists on paper, accurately drawn. It is not proceeded with until he is satisfied with every part.

Sheffield, in its central part, was mainly built between one and two hundred years ago; much more of it and its outlying districts (Attercliffe and Brightside, for example) are equally bad. Substantially all those parts were built in a get-rich-quick period, with an utter disregard of what is a suitable house in which to live, and whether there was a chance of decency or health. In fact, we have since had very expensively to take care of the consumptive types that were bred in and caused by such houses. Anything would do for the poor!

In the main, that was true until 1926. There were occasional public-spirited citizens with knowledge, conscience, and foresight, of course; but generally, their good work was of a grandmotherly and frequently of a patronising kind. They occasionally tried to do "good" to the poor, as they understood it.

### TO WHOM DOES SHEFFIELD BELONG.

Now say that very definitely Sheffield "belongs" to the people of Sheffield as a whole. Its people have been plundered and robbed of their common lands, of their right of access to land, of their right to work, and even of their right to live—except for the dole. Even that would be cut down by the Progressives, if they got half a chance. All that has to be altered, and our second instalment of Civic Planning—given on other pages of this issue—will be speeded up and followed up by other instalments as far as circumstances permit.

Our "plans" are in two main divisions—those we can slowly accomplish within the existing framework of our present social conditions and within the lifetime of the present Parliament; and those which are only possible as public opinion, intensity and spread in the Parliament that will resist us. That is only a question of time. Our second instalment can, and will be, proceeded with at once.

Civically, if you were planning a house, you could not plan the bedroom except in relation to the whole house. Neither can you plan any piece of social service or the physical lay-out of Sheffield without relation to the whole. Hot water and a bathroom in a "poor man's" house would have been laughed to scorn twenty-five years ago, by the "Progressives" of that day (who were then Liberals and Tories, open and unshamed). Well, let us sketch them something in of our plan that they will seek to claim credit in due course when it becomes an accomplished fact, as usual.

### FACTORIES.

The old factories of Sheffield are as mess. Rickety and unsightly, they are both a menace and an eyesore. As factories, they are fearfully out of date. Water-power, which was picturesquely filthy, has passed; steam power, which was merely filthy, is passing. The new factories and workshops, because of electric power and of the now known value of cleanliness and order inside the factory for increasing production, will be clean as a whistle. In twenty years Sheffield will be enormously cleaner than it is, and vegetation will be possible right in its industrial areas. Even today, in his speech at a flower bed in front of the Town Hall, The Doer will run clean as a die, and its banks can be laid out so as to give some of its former beauty to the city. There can be no beauty in two-storey-high houses in the centre of the city; but there can, and will be, flats that can be as easily accessible and much more comfortable with modern equipment than any of the two-storey houses of old-time were. There can be some open road blocks of flats, well laid-out and well kept. They are to be

residences built for men and women, and not those that an ancient Toryism thinks good enough for the poor.

### ELECTRICITY.

There is no satisfactory treatment of electricity to Labour's mind short of providing an unlimited supply and changing it in the rates. Owing to its comparative infamy as a means of lighting, heating, and cooking, however, there are several difficulties yet to be overcome. Water and electricity alike should be included in the general rate; but meantime, what can be done has been done.

Our opponents say that slot meter consumers are being charged unduly high, and Councillor Bearcroft in particular has trotted out a mass of figures in support of his case. He had better switch the light on, and have a look at his figures again. They are corrected below, however, so that he need not make any further arithmetical stumbles. In conclusion, may we ask: (1) Why has the party left the price at 8d. a unit when Labour took over, and (2) why when we gave no reduction last year, when they were in power?

### THE FACTS ABOUT SLOT METER CONSUMERS.

The slot meter scheme has been devised to assist the poorer class of consumer who is unable to bear the initial cost of installing the wiring and fittings to enable him to obtain a supply of electricity in his home. This cost is borne by the Corporation, and repaid to them by the consumer by means of payments through the slot meter.

The scheme is based on repayment of the installation costs over a period of ten years, that is to say, after 800 units have been consumed the installation becomes the property of the consumer. If the 800 units are consumed within a shorter period than ten years, then the installation costs have been repaid proportionately earlier, and whenever this takes place the consumer has the option of electing to come on to any other rate for his supply of electricity.

In addition to this slot meter consumers are afforded facilities if they so desire to transfer to the rateable value or any other tariff at any time prior to the balance then outstanding in respect of the cost of the installation, and many thousands of consumers have availed themselves of this facility.

It may be interesting to compare the cost to the consumer of the alternative rates under the assisted wiring or slot meter scheme, and the inclusive domestic rate scheme, at current rates.

house assessed at £10, will pay a fixed charge of one-twelfth of his assessment per annum plus 3s. 8d. for all units consumed, i.e.,

	Per Annum
One-twelfth of £10.....	16 8
Fifty units at 1d.....	2 6
	19 2

Or, 5s. 2s. 8d. over a period of ten years, in addition to which, of course, he has had to bear the cost of his installation which would cost say £5, to which must be added an item for loss of interest on the capital expended.

It will be seen, therefore, that the comparison works out at £15 for the assisted wiring consumer, and £14 19s. 8d. for the rateable value consumer, a comparison which is greatly in favour of the assisted wiring consumer, bearing in mind that he has not had to lay out any capital for his installation, and further enables him to enjoy the undoubted advantages of electric lighting on the score of safety, health, and comfort, which is a valuable asset.

The fact that over 17,000 are enjoying the advantage of this scheme and not one has ever reverted to other methods of illumination is sufficient proof of the popularity of the scheme.

### SCIENCE AND MONEY.

Turn where one will, science is giving man the possibility of a fuller life than could have been imagined even twenty years ago. Light and warmth, cleanliness and health, large and increasing contacts with the growing knowledge and the arts about us; these are developing rapidly. New ideals in city lay-outs and civic service are already coming to the fore, and we will join up our local activity to the larger, nation-wide work of organising industry, distributing the leisure that we will have, clearing over the whole working population, and refashioning our whole money-system so that a man may buy goods equal in value to the leisure that he has produced. The best a city council can do is—

First: To interpret legislation generally—and particularly that referring to Public Assistance—to the furthest degree in favour of the poor.

Second: To carry on all the local services with high efficiency, and without the idea of profit-making.

Third: To press upon all Parliament the need for larger rights to make its own decisions and carry out its own will, and—

Last: In due time to co-operate with a Labour Government in power to secure the Socialism for which we stand.

The Co-operative Commonwealth will be built by men and women who mean business!

## Maintain Civic Progress by Voting Labour

# Prominent Co-operators in the Fight

## DARNALL WARD



COUNCILLOR J. AYRE.

COUNCILLOR JAMES AYRE, who has been chosen as Labour candidate, has served the co-operative and trade union movements for many years past. A strong believer in the workers' fitness to govern, he nevertheless believes in preparation and training for public office. He has therefore attached himself to the Guild movement, to the Workers' Educational Association, and to the Co-operative Party's class for candidates and speakers. Familiar with the workers' economic and political position, he has never sought public office, but has always been willing to serve the people. His choice to fill the vacancy created in Darnall was a popular one, particularly amongst co-operators, who are familiar with his quiet but constructive statements at the quarterly meetings of the Brightside and Carbrook Society.

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

His year of office as a representative of the Darnall Ward has proved him an able and conscientious Councillor, who must be returned to continue his splendid service for this working-class area.

## FIRTH PARK WARD



Mr. J. W. HOLLAND.

Mr. J. W. HOLLAND, a member of the Brightside and Carbrook Board of Management, is a keen supporter of the need for political action. He has been for many years active in the work of the Co-operative Party, and is the present chairman of the Brightside Divisional Council. A vice-president of the Trades and Labour Council, Mr. Holland has had previous experience also as a City Councillor, representing the Walkley Ward for three years, during which time he attended 326 meetings out of a possible 555.

He was chairman of the Baths Committee, amongst other appointments that he held in his capacity as a Councillor. Bathing for Firth Park is a favourite topic with him, and he has already done much to draw attention to the need for scholars in that area having swimming facilities much nearer home.

For four years he has been a member of the City Education Committee, and has demonstrated his keen interest by active participation in the debates and close attention to the detailed work of administration.

He is resident in the ward he is seeking to represent, and we have little doubt that the choice of the Labour Party will be fully justified by his return to the City Council on November 21st.

## HILLSBOROUGH



Mr. J. H. PEARCE.

Mr. J. H. PEARCE, who is seeking the franchise of the Hillsborough electors, has been associated with the Co-operative and Labour movements during the whole of his adult life. As far back as 1888 he was assisting Ben Tillet in the fight at East Bradford. He has taken part in every Parliamentary or municipal election in the Labour interest wherever he has been resident at the time. His work in the General Election of 1919, when the late W. Anderson was the candidate for Attercliffe, kept Mr. Pearce busy almost night and day during that campaign. He has consistently spoken on behalf of Co-operative and Labour representatives, convinced of the necessity of working-class representation both on local and national bodies.

Mr. Pearce joined the trade union movement as soon as he was eligible, and has been a consistent member ever since.

He is a long-standing member of the Brightside and Carbrook Society, and can date his membership to that organisation from 1907. He was one of the founders of the Tintley Men's Co-operative Guild, and for the last six years has been the financial secretary of the Brightside and Carbrook Society's education committee.

A keen administrator in his capacity as gullman, trade assistant, and co-operative official, Mr. Pearce is the type who will attend to the committee work on the City Council with meticulous care and can be relied upon always to present a forward policy in civic affairs.

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## NEEPSEND WARD



COUNCILLOR J. A. LONGDEN.

COUNCILLOR J. A. LONGDEN, who has represented the Neepsend Ward for nine years past, can come before the electors with the utmost confidence. He has given unstinting service to the Neepsend people, making the job almost a full-time one.

His colleagues rightly honoured him by appointing him as chairman of the electricity department during a time when great developments were necessary. His reappointment as chairman of the hospitals committee was another recognition of his splendid service in a department where human sympathy as well as business capacity is an essential qualification.

He is chairman of the Sheffield Co-operative Party, and has taken into civic life the business principles and the co-operative spirit and outlook.

Neepsend is not likely to risk a newcomer whilst Councillor Longden is available, but apathy in this regard, or even "cocksureness" on the part of his supporters, should not be allowed to rob him of the biggest majority Neepsend has ever given to any one of its representatives.

## OWLERTON WARD



Mr. HAROLD SLACK.

Mr. HAROLD SLACK (secretary, Cutley Union) has been selected as the Co-operative candidate for the Owlerton Ward.

As delegate to the cutley council—which covers all the cutley joint—and secretary of the Grinders' Joint Council, which deals primarily with industrial diseases, Mr. Slack has had a valuable experience in representing the workers. Along with his colleagues, he was responsible in no small measure for the establishment of a Trade Union in the cutley industry. Having regard to the very scattered nature of the trade in Sheffield, it says much for

Mr. Slack's efforts that he was able to collect a mass of statistics, and to compile a vast amount of evidence which impressed the Government Inspector, upon whose recommendation the State Board was finally set up.

Mr. Slack has done a good deal of voluntary work in the city. He is a member of the Joint Hospitals Council, and on the Finance, Convalescence, and Publicity and Propaganda committees of that useful organisation.

At present a member of the Jervais Advisory Committee at the Labour League, he has had a wide experience of at least the industrial side of the people whose franchise he will seek. He is widely read on industrial and economic affairs, and has studied in the tutorial classes of the Workers' Educational Association for nine years. He has a particular penchant for economics and political science.

As a comparatively young man, he should go far in the political sphere, as he is certainly has done in the industrial. An ardent co-operator, and treasurer for the Hillsborough Co-operative Party, he has worked incessantly for the most adequate representation of co-operators on local and national authorities.

## WALKLEY WARD



Mr. F. H. SKELLAND.

Mr. F. H. SKELLAND—Walkley's popular choice to carry the Labour cause to victory once more—has been a co-operative forerunner in his civic life for during the whole of his civic life. His work as an organiser in the Transport and General Workers' Union covers a period of eighteen years, whilst his connection with the Labour and co-operative movements extends for twenty-six years.

Mr. Skelland realises the importance of political representation, and his line of action for which his union has always stood.

Apart from his industrial work, therefore, he has always been actively engaged in the Labour cause on the political platform. His terse vigorous speeches reveal the enthusiasm of youth tempered with a long experience of the workers' cause.

His service in the workers' cause, his election address is a model of enthusiastic advocacy of those great democratic principles which have built the magnificent structure of co-operation and trade unionism in this country.

With reference to the poverty and unemployment of our folk at all times writes Mr. Skelland, "I shall at all times oppose the false economy which means misery and pauperisation. Our unfortunate citizens must receive the best treatment available under Public Assistance."

His health the city is measured by the health and happiness of its citizens. That is a fair representation of Mr. Skelland's attitude on all public questions.

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### TRADE UNIONISM AND ITS RELATION TO MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION

By F. H. SKELLAND.

The editor has asked me to write something on the above matter, and as my trade union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, includes in its membership thousands of municipal employees in Sheffield, we are in a position to speak with some authority on the matter.

In the first place it will be conceded that speaking comparatively the wages paid and the conditions in operation are considerably in advance of the private firm. This is owing to the fact that the wages paid by the Corporation are common knowledge, and pressure can be used to consolidate, maintain, and improve them, whereas those obtaining in private enterprise are only known to the employer and the workman in many cases. Again, in the former case, approach to the management is established and encouraged, and no man can be victimised without a full inquiry, insisted upon by the trade union, whereas in private employ it frequently happens that any man or woman who interest themselves in a trade union can be singled out for attention, and we all know what that means—and their cards can be handed to them and they have no redress. Readers will be aware that the Labour Party has instituted the principle of direct labour, and will continue to extend that for two good reasons—

1. The material used is good, and the workmanship ditto.
2. The wages paid are fixed, and agreed upon, and whatever saving 'necesses' goes into the credit of the city generally, is distinct from that of the private trader, who is there frankly for profit, and whatever his supporters may argue, he must during the time he is working out his contract, be supervised and the wages he pays be checked, in spite of the fact that he signs to observe the fair wages clause, which is part of the contract tender. The non-observance of this clause is common knowledge, and contractors have been penalised for their conduct.

Another vital point, is that whilst there is a fair wages clause inserted, that only covers those men working for the Corporation, and the rest of such firms' employees have no protection.

Again, there are firms in the city supplying certain departments with commodities, e.g., groceries, clothing, furnishings, &c., and many of these firms have not a single trade unionist amongst them so far as we have been able to ascertain.

It should be the duty of the Labour and trade union movement to see to it that such firms are cut out of Corporation contracts, and place such orders with firms who observe good wages and conditions, and who employ trade union labour.

### THE FIRST WORKERS' GOVERNMENT.

There is nothing directly to do with the municipal elections, but is the title of a new book by G. R. Mitchison, published at 5s. net.

There are good spots in it, but like a great many other recent books on politics, it suffers from being long-winded. It is alleged to be for the satisfaction of Sir Stafford Cripps—a scheme for a transition from Capitalism to Socialism." Candidly, it appears to be rather a watery affair.

### THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Read, for example, how the House of Lords was abolished in 1933. Such abolition required the consent of the House of Lords itself, and to do this the new Peers were created, thus: "A mixed list was prepared—prominent party supporters; a number of volunteers from London and University Labour Parties; a selection of reliable men from some trade union branches, and a liberal selection from the staff of Transport House, who would be able to apply the methods of party discipline in their new environment; for this purpose two or three were given higher rank in the Peesage." After nine days' discussion in the House of Lords, the Bill was carried to be passed "and received the Royal Assent the same day." "The new Peers were always known to their friends as the 'suicide Peers.'"

### A BETTER WAY?

In an introduction to this volume, Sir Stafford Cripps has very fairly stated: "Those who want Socialism need evidence this method of its introduction, must, if they know a better way, expound it in as full detail and in as convincing a manner." This is not quite the place to attempt such a matter, but we do think it is both possible and desirable that a shorter effort should be made than the 528 pages here set out, and that when next such an essay is made, it should be in a form of a mind steeped in old methods trying to be ultra-modern. There is to be proposed, it seems, but see in the ancient forms and phrases. Even the first "bills" at the end of the book might have been by the most conservative of old-time draughtsmen, and the first government to be really effective will have its mark on the very phrasing of its bills.

### NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES.

No; we must have straighter and less-travelled thinking, and a more united conception of the task before we can hope for effective legislation. Despite all the good things that have been said about this book, it is not more than a rather poor experiment in sketching out part of a new action by old methods. Such new wine of none too good a quality will probably break the old bottles. So now be had better make a new set of vessels for a much better wine, and get the bottles ready to contain it. If he will produce this in outline in not more than a hundred pages, it should be worth while.

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# LABOUR'S SECOND INSTALMENT

## Practical Programme of Orders

In 1926, owing to the lack of ideas or programme from the Tory Citizens then in power, the ratepayers of Sheffield gave Labour a working majority. The ratepayers were much impressed by the comprehensive programme put forward by Labour to ensure that the powers of the City Council should be more adequately used for the benefit of the city as a whole.

Labour admitted that many of its proposals would cover a considerable period, and in 1932 the party had completed that ambitious programme and kept faith with the electors.

Whilst Labour looks with pride upon its past achievements, it fully realises that there is much more to be done.

The constant unloading on to the city of responsibilities that are properly national is cause for great concern. It makes it all the more necessary that the city should not lose sight of the fact that the social services, which the Council is empowered to carry out by Parliament, are the most effective insurance for a happy, healthy, and educated city. With this in view, Labour's programme will establish, bit by bit, a series of intelligently-planned schemes of development as briefly outlined below.

## LABOUR WILL— EDUCATION.

**FURTHER** develop nursery schools and classes in areas where the need for this service is felt.

**ESTABLISH** a new pupil teacher centre and two other new secondary schools as part of the general scheme of provision of secondary schools around the city. In addition, a secondary school of technical type will be provided in the centre of the city.



Blind Workers in their Canteen.

**SUPPORT** the raising of the school-leaving age with adequate State maintenance, and make that extra year one of useful training. Coupled with a good general education, special subjects will be instituted which will be helpful and beneficial to the students in their future occupations.

**TAKE** full advantage of the provision of milk for school children and give a generous interpretation as to children qualified to receive free milk.

**REDUCE** size of classes in primary schools. The enormous transportation of families to new districts has created additional problems in this direction. When the new schools contained in our programme are completed, the policy of reducing the size of school classes will be substantially accelerated.

**ENSURE** ample primary school accommodation for existing and proposed new housing estates.

**PROVIDE** a new College of Arts and Crafts. This is urgently necessary, the existing premises being both inadequate and unsuitable for the greatly increased requirements.

**PURSUE** its policy of ensuring healthy schools for the mental and physical benefit of the young people who have to spend so much of their lives in these buildings.

**EXTEND** evening classes, and develop, in collaboration with the University, the useful, practical, and cultural teaching being given at the present time.

**DEVELOP** the art side of education in our senior primary schools and secondary schools, in conjunction with the new Art Gallery. Its central site and facilities will be a very helpful factor to the students concerned.

**EXTEND** the Library Service as an adjunct to our educational system. It is our intention to link up the large centres of population on the outskirts of the city with the Library Service, and erect libraries in the newly-developed districts.

**USE** the magnificent new Central Library to develop interest, and keep people abreast of the facts, ideas, and cultural developments of the day.

## HOUSING.

**CONTINUE** the clearance of slums with increased vigour and rehouse the people. As a contribution towards this need, a vast of flats will be erected with all the known modern conveniences and comforts to make them desirable homes.

**REPLAN** central Sheffield on lines that will ensure fine architecture, gardens, wide roads, and open spaces.



Young life in the Scotland-street slums.



New accommodated in this up-to-date school.



The Shambles where Tories prepared your food.

# FOR SHEFFIELD'S SAKE

# CIVIC PLANNING FOR SHEFFIELD.

## Progress in All Municipal Services.

### HEALTH SERVICES.

**COMPLETE** the scheme of dustless collection of refuse throughout the whole city, with all its hygienic advantages.

**PROVIDE** accommodation for all our defective children who need treatment. This will enable those who are at present in various parts of the country to be accommodated, and permit the admission of others excluded by lack of accommodation.

**PROCEED** with the erection of additional wash-houses wherever there is need. The success of the municipal wash-houses warrants the establishment of additional units, other than those already built and approved.

**COMPLETE** the scheme for providing a continuous supply of clean water at all public baths, and develop the service.

**SEEK** further powers for more adequate supervision of our food supplies.

### HOSPITALS.

**PROCEED** with extensions to hospitals until the huts in use are all replaced by permanent, sanitary, and modern buildings. Extensions will also be made, including facilities for maternity patients, until we reach the stage when all the hospital needs of the citizens have been met.

**MAKE** Fir Vale House a public health hospital.

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

**COMPLETELY** reorganise the service, and revise scales of relief to make improvements in all instances where this is practicable.

**PROVIDE** better accommodation at stations for persons who have to seek relief.

**INAUGURATE** a municipal dental service.

**IMPROVE** and develop the Home-medical Service with equality of treatment assured, our aim being a complete municipal medical service.

**DEVELOP** the successful experiment of central buying, which policy has been abundantly justified by the results achieved.

### TRADING UNDERTAKINGS.

**CONTINUE** the successful policy in connection with tramways, electricity, printing, &c., of further cheapening the services, improving the facilities, reducing the loan debt and, at the same time, ensuring good wages and working conditions.

**COMPLETE** the replanning of markets on modern lines, in keeping with the Castle Hill Market.

**PROCEED** systematically with the elimination of disfiguring and uneconomically administered buildings. Modern buildings will supplant these civic eyesores and raise the dignity and status of our city. This will also provide useful work for men at present unemployed, ensuring to them better incomes, and to the city a substantial relief from maintenance costs.

**DEVELOP** further the Direct Labour Department. The very fine quality of its work in building schools, the Central Library, markets, &c., has evoked general commendation, and a reasonable proportion of constructional work will be done under this department, with its assurance of sound working conditions.

**CONTINUE** the policy of saving in the cost of administration, and at the same time increase the effectiveness of certain Corporation departments by reorganisation.

### PARKS.

**COMPLETE** the preliminary steps that have been taken to preserve the beauty of Rivelin Valley.

**INCREASE** and improve the amenities in the public parks.

**PROVIDE** accommodation for the aged for social intercourse in the parks.

**ABOLISH** collections at hand and concert performances in the parks.



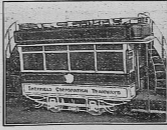
Labour's solution of over-crowding.



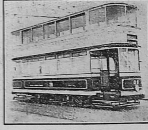
Labour prepares it.



A Hospital School.



Private enterprise's first car.



Direct labour's latest contribution.

# RETURN LABOUR TO POWER

## RATING.

OWING to the natural concern of a number of people whose assessment was increased recently, reference was made to the new assessment of property in the last issue of the "Gazette".

In connection with this matter, a most interesting publication was submitted to the last meeting of the city council, which showed the rateable value per head of the population in the five principal cities after the last re-assessment had been made. The figures are as follows:—

AVERAGE AMOUNT OF RATEABLE VALUE PER HEAD OF POPULATION.

	£	s.	d.
Sheffield .....	2	6	10
Leeds .....	5	19	11
Manchester .....	8	13	6
Liverpool .....	7	11	10
Birmingham .....	6	10	0

From this it will be seen that in Manchester the assessments of rateable value are nearly £3 per head more than Sheffield is, in fact, substantially below that of the other four cities.

Some people have ingeniously tried to make the question of assessments a political matter, but every intelligent person knows that the assessment committee is not responsible to the city council. If it were a political question, then Sheffield would have something to be grateful for, judging from the comparisons given.

## HOUSE RENTS REDUCED

THE CONVENTION wherever possible of all dear money into cheap mortgages is having most helpful effects upon Corporation Departments, and this is particularly reflected in the case of the Housing Department.

At the last council meeting it was decided that this benefit should be transferred to the tenants of houses on the Corporation estates. This was the most embarrassing meeting that the Progressives have experienced for some time, and their opposition to Labour's proposals were ridiculously weak and ended in a fiasco.

Their opposition to the rent reduction was evidently inspired by a desire not to bring down the rents of Corporation houses to anything that might be in competition with the prices charged for the hovels and lodges property owned by certain people who are amongst their most strenuous supporters.

Alderman Graves congratulated the committee upon its decision, and said that in view of the reduced rates of interest he thought the proposed reductions were honourable and straightforward, and they would receive his support. No one could say that the present rents were cheap.

That, coming from an "Independent," completed the discomfiture of the Tory Progressives in their battle on behalf of the maintenance of high rents.

The funniest thing in the debate was the contribution from Mr. Councillor Peters, who said that the people should be housed in flats in the centre of the city, because so many of them on the new estates were suffering from grave malnutrition because when they had paid their rent they had not sufficient money left to provide the necessary food. Fifteen minutes prior to this little speech he had voted against the reduction in rents, which, as Alderman Graves so rightly said, was a straightforward, honourable reduction owing to the cheaper cost of money.

## SIR HILTON YOUNG'S TESTIMONY TO SHEFFIELD LABOUR PARTY.

SIR HILTON YOUNG (Minister of Health) opened the excellent extension to the Sheffield City General Hospital on Friday, October 12th.

The hospital now has three modern operating theatres, sixty-eight maternity beds, and fifty-two cots. It also has the great advantage of portable X-ray apparatus, which enables quick diagnosis of fractures, and an out-patients' waiting-room to seat 170 people.

The Lord Mayor indicated to the Minister of Health that the improvements gave abundant evidence of a really progressive municipality.

The following is an extract from the "Telegraph and Star" of Friday, October 12th:—

"Sir Hilton Young said that when one visited a great industrial city such as Sheffield, and saw the legacy left by the lack of care and vision of the past, one realised the magnitude of the municipal government of the present. They had to realise that many such centres did not grow up; they 'just tumbled.' In Sheffield you are certainly doing your best, and it is a very good best, said Sir Hilton.

"During my visit I have seen many things which encourage me to say that in your city you are grappling with the problems left by the errors and confusions of the past in the right spirit of vision and enterprise for the future.

"He had detected one special local characteristic—the spirit of adventure and experiment."

It is this evidence, drawing such an eulogy from Sir Hilton Young, that will give Labour its victory on November 24th.

All sorts of nonsense will be talked during the election campaign, but the man-in-the-street KNOWS that Sir Hilton Young was right when he commended the Tories and praised Labour's administration.

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THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR.

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MRS. FRED MARSHALL will receive Purses from the Children.

Vouchers value of 1s. each may be obtained from any officer of the Party, which can be exchanged for goods of equal value at the Bazaar.

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## REPERTORY THEATRE.

The Sheffield Repertory Company had a good time with "The Far-off Hills." The theatre was filled to capacity on more than one occasion, and both productions so far have been encouragingly successful.

The next play, commencing on Saturday, Oct. 27, is "Major Barbara," considered by many to be Shaw's most powerful play. It should have a special appeal for Sheffield, since "Useless," the principal character, is an armament maker. Many amusing and salutary reflections on the art and practice of gun-making are contained in the brilliant dialogue. But guns alone are not the theme of the play. The principle of inheritance as opposed to wise choice; the Salvation Army; the vexed question of "tainted money"; maternal affection for an incompetent son; respectability and the running of factories; these are but a few of the matters discussed. The play is not, however, mere talk. It has intensely dramatic moments, and the scene in the Salvation Army shelter is one of the finest in modern drama. "Major Barbara" is, in fact, a comedy in which humour, brilliant wit, satire, and dramatic situations jostle one another at every end and turn.

For this production the Repertory Company has been successful in securing the services of Leslie Harcourt to play the important role of "Escobar." Mr. Harcourt has been with the Repertory Company before (in 1933), and will be remembered in the parts of "Mr. Bullfinch" in "Vice-Versa," the "Seigneur" and the "Emperor" in "Shaw's" "Androcles and the Lion," and "Crichton" in Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton."

The two professionals who are attached to the theatre, Margery Voeger and Ronald Massell, have important parts, and they will be supported by a strong cast, including Minora A. Davidson, Ella B. Atkinson, Kathleen Ribston, Cecil Russell, Margaret Wingfield, Alec Goodsmith, Reginald Badger, Norman Burley, Stanley Miller, George Longden, and Peter Lloyd. Jan Russell produces.

(Continued from column 1.)

The visitors to tea, and in reply Mr. Harwood conveyed the hearty thanks of the party for an enjoyable and instructive afternoon.

It had been a full day, packed with interest, and though somewhat in the nature of a "husman's holiday," the managers highly appreciated the various facilities placed at their disposal, and the kindness of their committee in granting them the opportunity of participating in such an instructive and enjoyable tour.

## "S. & E." BUTCHERS IN LONDON.

TWENTY-SIX other managers of butchering branches of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society Limited have just returned from an interesting and instructive visit to London's docks and meat market.

Accompanying the party were Mr. W. Buckley (president), Messrs. E. Harwood and W. Mooles (management committee), and Mr. S. G. Meak (butchering manager).

Mr. A. Cassin (manager, C.W.S. meat department) kindly placed at their service Mr. Wilmington (Smithfield depot), and under his able direction the visitors were enabled to inspect the various displays at this famous market, later proceeding to the docks, where the unloading of imported meat was witnessed.

Boarding the ship, they were conducted round the storage and freezing plant and, in striking contrast, were privileged to see the passenger accommodation. The party had certainly much to discuss over lunch at the C.W.S. headquarters in Leaman-street.

The afternoon was spent at the abattoir of the London Co-operative Society, where they witnessed slaughtering operations in progress and were particularly struck by the completeness of the plant which permitted them to follow the various processes converting a pig in the sty into pork and production, neatly wrapped and labelled ready for sale.

Mr. Jones (member, London Co-operative Society's board) welcomed (Continued in previous column.)

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