



# TRUTH ABOUT SHEFFIELD'S BUDGET.

This March Council meeting saw the introduction of the coming year's Budget, and gave Alderman Blanchard and his supporters an opportunity to air themselves. This would appear to be done to please their business supporters outside, by means of Press reports. They will naturally be great supporters of the "freedom of the Press" for their speeches are reported pretty well in full. In practice, it means freedom for them, and the muzzling of the Labour Party. One has only to look at head lines, for example, to see how the local Press supports the mis-named "Progressive." "Worst Budget Ever Presented in Sheffield: Millstone of Huge Deficit."

### THE FACTS.

The Labour Party's Budget, for the year ending March 31st, 1933, proved to be £99,688 short of requirements. The following year's budget was prepared by Alderman Blanchard, who had budgeted for a deficit of £249,261! In other words, he reduced the rates 1s. in the pound by the expedient of not paying the bills! He added by his budget £39,238 to the deficit, whereas Alderman Watkinson is now adding £64,573—less than half as much. And, would you believe it, Alderman Blanchard had the cool cheek to say that the "deficit balance is a millstone which will hang round the neck of the ratepayers for years." Well, he hung it round by not raising enough money—by his "bob of" scheme.

### POLICE.

Mark how helpful Alderman Blanchard is when he gets down to particulars. Here are three complaints of his— "from 1926, the Watch Committee cost had gone up from £177,000 to £236,000, the Parks Committee from £34,000 to £49,000, and the Libraries from £59,000 to £58,000." This quotation from his speech actually appears in the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph."

Thing them in the same order, and we will deal first with the Watch Committee. Alderman Blanchard very well knows that, in 1926, the Home Office were strongly dissatisfied with the strength of the police force in Sheffield, and roundly condemned it. There was, indeed, a threat that the Government grant would be withheld. The extra cost has been forced on Sheffield, as the Government was dissatisfied with his standards of police efficiency!

### PARKS.

In 1926 the area of parks, recreation grounds, and open spaces was 3,335 acres; now, it has increased to 2,750 acres—more than doubled! 106 per cent. greater, in fact. The new expenditure which is complained about by Alderman Blanchard shows an increase of 44 per cent. only!

### LIBRARIES.

Here are the figures with respect to what Alderman Blanchard calls "Libraries." He includes art galleries and museums, but does not mention them. The costs for the two separate years are given side by side.

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1926.              | 1935 Budget.     |
| Running Interest   | Running Interest |
| costs              | costs            |
| changes            | changes          |
| £                  | £                |
| Libraries - 22,538 | 29,790           |
| Museums - 4,192    | 3,640            |
| Art                |                  |
| Galleries 1,784    | 6,915            |
| 28,534             | 37,885           |
| 28,534             | 48,440           |
| Total              | 29,264           |
|                    | 58,244           |

The difference is therefore accounted for by—

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Extra for staff, books, and additional libraries—including new Central Library, which was much overdone..... | 15,337  |
| Extra Interest on borrowed money, mainly in connection with new Library.....                                 | 9,074   |
| Extra running costs of art galleries (Graves' Gallery).....  | 5,731   |
| Less the saving on museums.....  | 552     |
| Total extra.....   | £38,980 |

This extra is complained about by Alderman Blanchard, who apparently would have had no new Central Library and no Graves' Art Gallery. Far from objecting to these, however, he supported the proposal.

### SOUND AND FOAM.

Beyond the budget, there is no matter of great importance before the Council. And beyond "sound and foam" there was no criticism of the budget. Really, it is time Alderman Jackson became leader if he is leader—and it was time they had a change!

### WELFARE CENTRES.

Meantime, we have pleasure in supporting the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph" in encouraging further public expenditure. The issue for March 9th says that: "Sheffield tags behind in infant welfare centres." The Ministry of Health suggests that a district with 400 births a year should have one centre. . . . and in Sheffield . . . there should be eight centres at least." The following table is given—

|                 | No. of    | Centres. |
|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Birmingham..... | 1,002,473 | 30       |
| Liverpool.....  | 855,530   | 17       |
| Manchester..... | 760,313   | 25       |
| Leeds.....      | 482,809   | 20       |
| Nottingham..... | 268,801   | 15       |
| Leicester.....  | 239,111   | 17       |
| Newcastle.....  | 275,009   | 15       |
| Sheffield.....  | 517,757   | 2        |

When the "Progressives" were the continual rulers of the city (under another name, of course) every branch of the public service was like that! And directly any increase is mentioned Topics will talk about the spend-thrift Socialists! He should learn from his own paper.

# WHY BLAME HITLER?

### THE VICIOUS CIRCLE.

February 3rd, 1935.—Complete agreement reached in London between French and British Governments as to the best method of freely negotiating the settlement of Europe, and achieving equality in a regime of security. Proposal communicated to Germany.

February 14th, 1935.—Proposals accepted by Germany as basis for discussion. Sir John Simon to go to Berlin.

March 5th, 1935 (morning).—White Paper issued.

March 5th, 1935 (evening).—Hitler develops a cold. Sir John Simon's visit to Berlin postponed.

March 11th, 1935.—Debate on White Paper. Mr. Baldwin defends British armaments increase on the ground that "they will help us in the times that are coming to make peace more secure." He is added.

A country which shows itself unwilling to make what necessary preparations are requisite for its own defence will never have force, moral or material, in this world.

March 12th, 1935.—Berlin correspondent of "The Times" sends message to that paper summarising Germany's reaction to British White Paper. Quoted from "F. Frankfurter Zeitung":

Germany have fully understood the sober considerations advanced by British Ministers in explaining the necessities of national defence, and expect, as equally privileged members of human society, to be granted the same measure of self-protection. Paris correspondent of "The Times" reporting on French reaction to White Paper debate stated:—

The main argument advanced that security cannot be achieved by pacts alone coincides with the French view, and its acceptance by the British Cabinet on the eve of the Berlin visit is the more timely in that France is on the eve of a parallel increase of her forces in the form of the extension of the period of compulsory military service to two years.

March 13th, 1935.—Berlin correspondent of "The Times" quotes from a semi-official commentary issued in Berlin on that night:—

The British White Paper has finally destroyed any remaining hopes of an disarmament or, alternatively, has given the final proof that such

hopes have been Utopian for a long time past.

March 15th, 1935.—French Chamber approves plans increasing compulsory military service period to two years. M. Flaudin (French Premier) quoted the British White Paper on arms in support of the French army increase. —[Paris correspondent of the "News Chronicle"]

March 16th, 1935.—Hitler issues proclamation announcing conscription for Germany. Extracts from proclamation:

The German Government accepts the conclusions which Mr. Baldwin so truly expressed in a recent speech. A country which is not prepared to take the precautionary measures for its own defence will never have power in this world, neither moral nor material power.

The Government of the present German Reich wants, however, only one single moral and material power, the power to be able to preserve peace for the Reich, and thereby, indeed, peace for all Europe.

### EQUALITY OF SACRIFICE?

#### INLAND REVENUE FIGURES.

THE National Government claimed in 1933 that equality of sacrifice would be the principle behind the economy régime on which it was proposed to embark. Comparisons have since been drawn between the taxes imposed on the well-to-do classes and the Means Test imposed on the workless. Figures given in the 1933-34 report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue indicate that the well-to-do classes are not suffering inconceivable of a serious kind. In that year,

- 84,375 people had incomes exceeding £2,000 a year.
- 20,230 people had incomes exceeding £2,000 a year.
- 6,355 people had incomes exceeding £1,000 a year.
- 1,664 people had incomes exceeding £500 a year.
- In that year, under Finance Act, 1933, Single persons with unearned incomes of £2,000 per annum had over £20 per week when taxes had been paid.
- Single persons with unearned incomes of £5,000 had over £66 per week when taxes had been paid.
- Single persons with unearned incomes of £20,000 had nearly £110 per week when taxes had been paid.
- Single persons with unearned incomes of £20,000 had 199 per week when taxes had been paid.

Under the Relief Regulations issued by the Unemployment Assistance Board and now withdrawn for revision owing to public indignation, basic household needs were assumed to be 16s. a week for a man or 24s. a week for a man and wife, living together, with no children, without resources, and paying an assumed rent of not less than 7s. 6d. per week. During the period covered by the present report, an unemployed man with no resources of any kind and receiving no assistance from friends or relatives received 15s. 3d. per week. What meaning can possibly be attached to the National Government's phrase "equality of sacrifice?"

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## WOMEN'S NOTES.

By MISS GRACE COLMAN, M.A.  
(Prospective Parliamentary Candidate  
for the Hallam Division.)

MANY Sheffield people must be in two minds about the Government's decision to spend more on armaments— are they to welcome the increased employment it will bring to the city, or is the thought of war so hateful that they cannot welcome preparation for it? Perhaps they will solve the problem by persuading themselves that to prepare for war is the best way to avoid it. I hope not because, difficult though it is to oppose this argument anywhere, and especially in a city with Sheffield's industries, I am convinced that that way disaster lies. The Government's case, as set out in the White Paper on Defence, is that peace is threatened, especially, by the rearmament of Germany; that the machinery of the League of Nations is insufficient for the maintenance of peace; that armaments are necessary, for security, and in order to keep the peace, by putting fear into the heart of the would-be aggressor; and that we have so cut down our spending that our army, navy, and air force are no longer strong enough for those purposes. Is this case sound?

### THE GERMAN CASE.

As to the last point, I am not an expert on questions of defence, but I feel inclined to agree with Sir Herbert Samuel, when he said in the House of Commons, during the debate on the White Paper, that if we are really as weak as the Government says, "we must be getting very bad value for the £11,000,000 which this country is spending year after year." As to the first point in the argument, that peace is in danger, especially as the result of the rearmament of Germany, though I am no supporter of Hitlerism, I am convinced that instead of rushing to the conclusion that Germany means war we should ask why she is rearming.

The German case is this. By the Treaty of Versailles she was compelled to disarm, and, according to the inter-

Allied Commission of Control, she actually did so. The Treaty says, however, that Germany undertakes to disarm "in order to render possible the initiation of a general limitation of the armaments of all nations." But, says the German Government in the declaration of March 17th, which introduced conscription, while Germany disarmed the victorious countries did not do so, and on the contrary they soon began to increase their armaments. Thus they did not and we have broken the Treaty. Further, "in the midst of these highly-armed States Germany, in respect of her armaments, was on an empty space, delivered over in her defencelessness to anyone's every threat and menace," and so she cannot any longer put off making provision for her own defence. The German Government also puts forward the claim for equal status with other countries, that the defencelessness of Germany is "as injurious as it is menacing." And, unfortunately, the world is still so uncivilised that the importance of countries is judged largely by their arms; as Mr. Baldwin said recently, "it is the question of status which makes great nations want to be inferior in no degree in their armaments to any other great nation in the world."

### IS IT PEACE?

All this is not an attempt to wash Germany. I have only tried to show that the victors in the war must share the blame for the present situation, in that it imposed too harsh a peace on the losers, and that for sixteen years we have tried to keep a great nation in a position of inferiority, year after year putting off the inevitable settlement. With willingness to give justice there seems no more reason to fear aggression by Germany than by Italy, where Mussolini makes just as virulent speeches as Hitler, and where preparations for war are probably more advanced. We have to get out of the habit of thinking of Germany as a country which must be kept in subjection, or she will make war, while other countries can arm as they like without danger; and give the German Government the chance to show that, now it has taken equality, it means to work sincerely with other countries for peace through the League of Nations.

## OBSTACLES.

"The Frustration of Science," by various Scientists. Published by W. Allen and Unwin Ltd. 3s. 6d.

This book is a collection of seven rather lengthy articles by seven scientific specialists. The whole message of the book is to show the profound dissatisfaction that they feel concerning our economic system. Science is prohibited to the making of profits, and to the purposes of war. The whole burden of their complaint is summed up in a quotation given in the first article (on "Science and Agriculture" by Sir Daniel Hall): "An American Professor of Agriculture writes to me: 'Ten million acres of cotton and some thousands of tobacco have been ploughed under. The latest move is the killing of some five million pigs weighing under 100 lbs., and the slaughter of some 200,000 prospective mother sows.' If this will bring national prosperity I have wasted my life."

### RUSSIA.

The same essay speaks well of the "one example before us in the Russian plan," and goes on to add that the problem "necessitates a social revolution no other country is prepared to carry through."

The next essay, on "Aviation," points out that "aviation is developed for the use of soldiers and sportsmen, and not for the working citizenry." It is "frustrated by the holders of private property," and "it will remain frustrated as long as it is not controlled primarily to serve the crew classes."

"Science and Industry" tells a similar tale. "For the sake of preserving the economic system we continue to use primitive methods. The alternative, if science is to be used beneficially, is to scrap the system and introduce a national one." "If science is to help humanity, it must find a new master."

### OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS.

It would be a mistake to suppose that these essays merely grumble. They are matter-of-fact statements, and are highly informative, that are high value. They point out in very restrained but forceful language the obstacles that prevent a magnificent and rapid achievement.

The final essay, by Professor Plackett, F.R.S., winds up the whole case on the frustration of science. He is no sinner-of-the-fence. "Unless our society can use science, it must turn anti-scientific, and that means giving up the hope of the progress that is possible. That is the way," he says, "that capitalism, now taking, and led to Fascism. The other way is complete Socialist planning on a large scale; it is a planning for a maximum possible output, and not a partial restriction of output. I believe that there are only these two ways."

### SOCIALISM.

This statement is repeated in even stronger fashion as the closing paragraph of the book. This final essay is a serious warning, and a clear lead. Readers of this paper and members of our movement would do well to make themselves familiar with every essay in "The Frustration of Science," and to have a fresh faith in Socialism.

## THE PEPPER SCANDAL.

THE PEPPER PROFIT PLOT  
THAT FAILED.

WHAT IT WOULD HAVE  
MEANT TO CONSUMERS.

HAD the attempt to "corner" pepper succeeded, it would have increased the price of the commodity to the price of 8d. per pound—and the speculators concerned in the rump would have made an additional profit of £1,500,000.

This was one of the many revolutions made by Mr. David Grenfell and other Labour M.P.'s during the debate on commodity speculations, in the House of Commons on March 7th. The Labour Party asked for a full public inquiry into the whole question of gambling in commodities, and Labour speakers gave facts which showed that tin and shellac were also involved in the pepper scandal.

Liberal and Tory M.P.'s endorsed Labour's view that a comprehensive inquiry was necessary. Sir A. M. Samuel, the Tory M.P. for Farham, in the House was indebted to the Labour Party for drawing attention to "the recent sorry, squally story of gambling and ruin."

In the course of his reply, Mr. Runciman said that "people have been disturbed over recent events and with very good reason." He would not agree to the Labour Party's proposal for an inquiry over the whole field of speculation, but he gave an undertaking that the inquiry now being conducted by the Official Receiver into the affairs of Messrs. James and Shakespeare would cover other companies concerned in the said transactions, and that the report of the inquiry would be made public.

While welcoming Mr. Runciman's statement, Dr. Addison made it clear that the Labour Party did not regard such an inquiry as adequate. "We are entitled to ask," he said, "that the community should be safeguarded against this gambling in commodities which spreads our country and spreads ruin among thousands of innocent people." He quoted a recent leading article in the "Economist" which declared that if responsible leaders in the city cannot find ways and means of preventing this abuse, "the State will inevitably be called upon to create that the supply of commodities, which should be organised in the public interest, will be organised in as orderly a manner as possible, and not made a field for speculative gambling."

It is for that purpose that the Labour Party proposes the setting-up of Import Boards and a National Investment Board.

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# PORTRAIT OF THE RIGHT HON. A. V. ALEXANDER. PURCHASE BY CO-OPERATORS.

FINE PAINTING BY FAMOUS ARTIST.

The executive of the Sheffield Co-operative Party have decided to purchase the oil painting of the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander by Mr. Ernest Moore, a well-known London portrait painter.

## MR. ALEXANDER'S CAREER.

It will be remembered that Mr. Alexander first came to Sheffield in 1922, and succeeded in winning the Hillsborough in the Co-operative and Labour interest from a notable local representative, the late Mr. Arthur Neal. Mr. Alexander's victory was something of a sensation, and was the least expected by people who were not familiar with Mr. Alexander's personality and the vigour of his fighting speeches.

He made his name immediately he entered the House of Commons, never missing an opportunity of putting the Co-operative and Labour case with enthusiasm and real statesmanship.

## BOARD OF TRADE APPOINTMENT.

When the first Labour Government was formed in 1924, Mr. Alexander was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. During the short period of office he fully justified that particular choice, and was marked out for Cabinet rank at the next opportunity that his Labour colleagues had to elect him.

## NAVAL CONFERENCE.

As the First Lord of the Admiralty from 1930 to 1932, Mr. Alexander again showed a grasp of detail and a breadth of outlook. It is recorded he "proved himself a very capable Minister in his department," and that he did "his job with conspicuous ability."

He played a very great part in the negotiations at the London Naval Conference, and in an attempt to secure a naval agreement that would have reduced armaments and saved millions of money. He, along with the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson (then Foreign Secretary), paid a dramatic visit to Paris, interviewing the French Ministers, M. Briand and M. Dumont; then on to Rome to interview Signor Mussolini. At the time the "Daily Mail" paid the following tribute:—

"The British nation has every reason to congratulate Mr. Henderson and Mr. Alexander upon the brilliant success of their diplomacy. The Naval Agreement, which, through their efforts has been concluded with France and Italy, is one of the most splendid achievements recorded since the Armistice.

## THE HILLSBOROUGH CONSTITUENCY.

Losing his seat in the stunt election of 1931, Mr. Alexander has had many offers of other seats at the various by-elections, but has maintained his loyalty to the Hillsborough Division, and has kept up his periodic visits to the constituency. After the last election he was almost immediately accepted as the Co-operative and Labour candidate for Hillsborough. There is little doubt but that he will again succeed in repre-



The Picture and the Artist.

senting the division in the House of Commons.

## SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

His many admirers hearing that the portrait was on exhibition, immediately conceived the idea of a subscription list to purchase same. The Sheffield Party negotiated the deal, and are opening a subscription list, to which there is sure to be a generous and widespread response. The committee is not seeking big subscriptions, but hopes that everyone, even amongst the poorest of his supporters, will contribute some little towards the purchase of a portrait which is bound to be historic. Mr. Alexander is the first directly-elected co-operative to have held a Cabinet position, and he is the first Cabinet Minister who has sat for a Sheffield constituency for very many years past. In general, should use this opportunity to honour such a worthy representative. Mr. A. Ballard is acting as secretary to the fund, and any readers of the "Sheffield Co-operative" who would like to express their appreciation of Mr. Alexander's work can send a subscription, however small, to Mr. A. Ballard, Secretary, Sheffield Co-operative Party, 77, Bank-street, Sheffield, 1.

## "A FAMOUS CO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR LEADER."

A London journalist who has helped in the negotiations writes, apropos of the subject and the artist:—

"To engrave the famous names people who have sat to Mr. Moore, from Sir Henry Irving down to M. Paul Hymans, the Belgian statesman, would take up a great deal of space. Last summer he [Mr. Moore] said to the writer: 'I would like to paint a famous Labour and Co-operative leader, a thing I have never done as yet.' The writer at once suggested Mr. Alexander, who, the portrait which resulted is one of the best pieces of work Mr. Moore has executed for some time.

The painting was exhibited in Sheffield and London. Mr. Moore has close connections with Sheffield where he lived for many years. When he left Sheffield he went to America, painting many famous men there. On his return he settled at South Kensington, London.

## LABOUR IN THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

A new pamphlet, "The Position of the Middle-class Worker in the Transition to Socialism," written by Mr. Lawrence Benjamin, and published by the Labour Party, is now available. The pamphlet, which is attractively produced and illustrated with diagrams and tables, provides a concrete account of the contemporary problem of poverty amidst abundance, with detailed examples of the straits to which producer and consumer alike have been reduced; shows how the national income is distributed; explains the defects and failure of the capitalist system of distribution; states the case for public ownership of the economic productive machine; describes the advantages to the black-coated and professional worker of the transition to Socialism, together with the part that such workers will play in the Socialist State; and concludes with an appeal to the middle

(Continued in next column.)

## THE RUSSIAN CO-OPERATIVE PLAN FOR 1935.

The co-operative movement in the U.S.S.R. has now established its plan of work for 1935, and has fixed the turnover to be attained in the year at 33,500 million roubles.

In the villages 5,000 new stores are to be built, including 2,000 big district stores. In the towns there are to be 500 new stores, and 1,500 new shopping booths.

Share capital is to be increased to 200,000,000 roubles, and capital investment in new construction is fixed at 150,000,000 roubles, most of which will be spent in new bakeries, stores, and transport facilities. A sum of 8,000,000 roubles is to be devoted to special services and house-building for employees. The dining rooms are to increase their turnover to 2,993,100 roubles, and the bakery industry its output to 265,000 tons. Large increases are also planned in the provision of fruit and vegetables.

The output of the dairy industry is to include 600 tons of ice-cream, 200 tons of milk, 2,200 tons of cheese, 68,000 tons of milk, and 33,000 tons of butter. There are also to be considerable increases in the growing of vegetables on suburban farms, and in cattle raising.

Over 68,000,000 roubles is to be devoted to the training of new staff. In particular, the dairy industry is to increase its staff very greatly: 1,920 specialists, 1,700 laboratory workers, 300 instructors, and 6,330 poultry dressers are to be trained in 1935. Special courses are to be established for improving the technical qualifications of existing workers.

The increased importance attached to the proper training of workers is also shown in the plans for aiding the universities. Considerable sums are budgeted for improving the food and clothing of university students; special sums are to be granted to students' co-operative societies for the purpose of books, &c., and in the Moscow Planning and Economic Institute a tailoring and shoe-repairing shop, and a laundry, are to be provided for married students.

Special classes' school holidays are being organised in all the large towns and district centres, and in Khar'kov special stores are being organised for pioneers. They will supply books, equipment, and games for pioneer groups, which are the Soviet equivalent of boy scouts and girl guides.

classes to work for a system of society which will ensure their security, increased opportunities, and self-respect.

The pamphlet (price 2s.; post free 2s.4d.; twelve copies 1s. 6d.; 100 copies 10s.) may be obtained from the Labour Publications Department, Transport House, Smith-square, London, S.W.1.

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## CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

### ATTERCLIFFE.

A successful meeting of the Attercliffe Divisional Council was held at the Attercliffe Institute on March 13th, co-operatives were present in a good number. Mr. A. Ballard (party organiser) gave a talk on the place and purpose of the Co-operative Party. An interesting discussion followed.

The meeting also recorded its thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Barringer (late secretary), in accepting her resignation from the position. The officers appointed for 1935 were: Secretary, Mr. Norman Shimwell, 212, Attercliffe Common; president, Mr. P. Sims; vice-president, Mrs. P. Sweeting; ward secretaries, Mrs. Brinsley (Attercliffe), Mr. J. W. White (Tinsley), and Mr. A. Beech (Darnall). Mr. Beech and Mr. Sims were appointed on the management committee of the Attercliffe Institute.

Membership cards for 1935 are now ready, and Mr. Shimwell will be pleased to accept names and addresses of old and new members.

### BRIGHTSIDE

The Brightside Co-operative Party monthly meeting was held at the Shire Green Co-operative Institute on March 23rd, when Mr. J. H. Pearce (secretary, Brightside and Carbrook education committee) gave an interesting cinema lecture on "C.W.S. Productions."

*Mr. President*  
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Following upon this a social evening was held.

The membership in this area is on the increase but the committee appeal to the co-operatives in the district to rally round in order to attain the ideal they have set themselves for 1935 to double their 7034 membership. There is also a record number of contributors to the outgoing fund for the party's annual excursion to Bournemouth. The secretary, Mrs. Ward, 58, Sacey-avenue, will be pleased to supply membership cards and contribution cards to those desiring to accompany the party on their June 19th.

### BURNGREAVE.

The Burngreave Women's Section continue their weekly meetings, and report an increased membership and a good average attendance. On March 13th a meeting was devoted to the discussion of reports from various conferences; 13th, Councilor (Mrs.) Cumming gave an interesting report of City Council affairs. Mrs. Cumming gave a report every month, and the members like to see and record their appreciation of the detailed accounts they receive and the manner in which Mrs. Cumming answers the many questions of interested citizens. On this occasion Mrs. Cumming gave particulars of the City's budget, and was able to justify fully our local Chancellor's (Alderman T. H. Watkins) provision for the social services of the city that mean so much to the welfare of the poorer classes of Sheffield.

On March 27th Mrs. J. Billam (member, Central Council, Women's Guild) spoke at "Resolutions at Sixty."

Programme for April: 1st, Reports; 2nd, monthly City Council report; 17th, social; 24th, Mrs. L. Vickers will be the speaker.

A hearty invitation is given to all co-operative women in the district. Meetings held in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, Wednesdays, 7-30 p.m.

### HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Women's Thursday evening meetings are being continued until May 9th, after which a programme of visits and outings will be arranged.

On March 17th Mrs. Fletcher was the speaker; 14th, Mr. W. Berry gave an interesting lantern lecture on "Co-operation in Denmark." On the 21st Mr. E. Butcher (vice-president, South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Federation Co-operative Party) was the speaker, and took for his subject: "Are We Poor?" March 28th Mr. Eric Organ (president, British Federation of Co-operative Youth) was the speaker.

Programme for April: 1st, Mr. W. H. Robinson; 11th, City Council report, to be given by one of the Overton councillors; 28th, an "Open Night" is announced, and the 28th, a "Free and Easy." Meetings held in the Co-operative Institute guidoorium, Middlewood-road, Thursdays, 7-45 p.m.

The Women's Section meetings, which are held in the Large Institute on Monday afternoons, reported a fall in attendance during February, but there has been a distinct increase during the last four weeks, when on the 4th a social was held; 11th, Miss Atkin was the speaker in place of Mr. J. E. Forster, J.P., who has been laid aside with illness since March 25th, Alderman W. Beardsley, J.P., dealt in detail with "Sheffield's Water Supply." Programme for April: 1st, social; 8th, Councilor W. Asbury, J.P., on "The Law Relating to Public Assistance"; 15th, speaker, Councilor H. Shack 22nd (Easter Monday), ramble; 29th, speaker, Mr. J. H. Pearce.

### NEPSFEND.

On March 13th, Councilor J. Gill spoke at a good audience on "Municipal Politics," in place of Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., who was unavoidably absent. Questions and discussion showed keen interest and showed appreciation of Councilor Gill's excellent address. On March 27th the Nepsfend Party held a business meeting, when they re-nominated Councilor J. W. R. Stokes to be their candidate at the next municipal election.

The Women's Section have given up their meeting on April 1st in order to

pay a visit to the Hillsborough Women's Section, when Mrs. Alexander will be present; 8th, Mr. Sands will speak on "Science and Nature"; 15th, social; 22nd, 29th, Mr. R. Fisher will be the speaker.

### SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Party have maintained their attendance at the weekly meetings during March and will have several interesting programmes for April. Commencing in May, a series of outings and visits to places of interest will take place, and suggestions are requested from the members. The committee contemplate visiting a "Fairy Dance" during April, and announcements will be made in the near future giving particulars.

A novel jumble sale is to be held on Saturday, April 6th, in the guidoorium, Southey-avenue, at 2 p.m.—a sale of plants, seedlings, and cuttings—which should prove very useful for amateur gardeners during the present season. Other interesting features are the destruction of plants in need for the sale, and which would be helpful to other gardeners in the locality. The party have arranged this gardeners' jumble sale to prevent this waste, to add to the funds of the squandering and destroy the horticultural requirements of their members at one and the same time. The secretary (Mr. G. A. Holder), whose new address is 84, Southey Hill-road, will be pleased to arrange for the collection of plants in need for the sale, and makes a special appeal for visitors to attend who want real bargains in plants.

The Women's Section meetings, which are held in the guidoorium, Wednesdays, at 7 p.m., will be continued during April. On the 3rd the speaker will be Mr. F. Dawtry (secretary, Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society); 10th, Mrs. A. Tryer (director, Brightside and Carbrook Society) will give an address; 17th, a social.

### SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held a meeting on March 17th, when Mrs. Vickers (president) gave a report of the North-Eastern Section Co-operative Party meeting at Halifax. Mrs. Beal reported upon the Trades and Labour Council meeting, and the balance sheet of the organisation was also discussed.

At the meeting on March 25th Mr. W. Berry gave a splendid lantern lecture on "London's Water Supply," surveying the schemes for very earliest times. Meetings for April will be notified by circular.

The Women's Section meetings are held at Napier-street Co-operative Institute on Thursday afternoons. On March 7th Councilor Atkin, J.P., gave a résumé of his recent visit to Germany; 14th, Press cuttings; 21st, Mrs. M. J. Ward, Mrs. F. Ward (member, Brightside and Carbrook education committee) was the speaker; 28th, a whist drive was held. April 4th, the annual national conference address is to be discussed, and on the 11th a business meeting will be held to arrange the summer programme. Secretary: Mrs. J. Billam.

### "WOMEN IN INDUSTRY."

The Wisewood Men and Women's Co-operative Guilds held their "Women in Industry" on Thursday, March 27th, in "Women in Industry." The women's side was put very effectively by Mrs. Gatlin and Mrs. N. Wood; while Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Marsden stated the main point of view. Mrs. Walker (member, Brightside and Carbrook education committee) presided.

### WHERE THERE IS NO PRIVATE MANUFACTURE OF ARMS.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on March 14th, Mr. John Simon stated that the manufacture of arms was in an absolute monopoly of the State in the Soviet Union, Greece, and Venezuela. State monopolies also in Turkey and Yugoslavia. But concessions to private industry, and in certain to private industry for the manufacture of explosives and non-military arms.

## CO-OPERATIVE ELECTORATE WILL REJECT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

### PUBLIC OPINION FLOUTED.

THE National Government has exceeded itself in opposing national taxation the biggest petition ever sent to the House of Commons, but absolutely no effect in altering the Government's decision to impose a penal-tax on co-operative societies. Although millions of people protested, the Government pursued its sinister policy.

Again, on the peace question, the Government has chosen to ignore public opinion. According to the latest returns covering 3,014,535 of the population, the peace ballot showed 62.8 per cent. of the number were in favour of disarmament, and 37.2 per cent. voted in favour of the stronger support of the League of Nations. Yet the Government is to spend many millions more on the air, naval, and military services according to the estimates recently presented in the House of Commons. In a democratic country such an attitude adopted towards public opinion is deplorable. Such a dictatorial attitude must be quashed.

The vast co-operative electorate is determined to reject the National Government at the earliest opportunity. On the question of taxation, marketing schemes, and unemployment, the Co-operative Union is organising a great campaign against the most reactionary Government of modern times. Sectional co-operative conferences have been held all over the country, and resolutions passed pledging the movement to support this campaign to its utmost. There must be no panic on the occasion of the next election. Red-letter and gold standard scares must not be permitted to intimidate the electorate into voting against co-operative and working class representatives to the legislature.

The co-operative movement will play an important political role when the present Government goes to the country. And co-operators can only make one reply.

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**ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS.**

"Economics and Business Life," by Sir Henry Fensom. Cambridge University Press. 5s.

The financial side of economics, as in actual practice, is not easily understood by men and women generally, particularly those who have not business contracts. What a joint-stock company is, how accounts are kept, balance sheets, banks, and the gold standard are worse than Chinese in the ordinary way. They are not only darkly obscure, but they are an invisible framework in which our lives are bound. We may work hard, but for some crazy reason the balance sheet of the firm for whom we work may tell a tale of disaster, or the gold standard may topple over and crush us as effectively as if it were a pillar of stone. These principalities and powers of darkness are the real rulers; we are not governed by democracy; we are governed by figures and gold.

**A PART OF EDUCATION.**  
This is the sort of text-book that ought to be in use in all secondary schools, giving part of the essential education of youth. Our sons and daughters know the Latin for "life," but they do not know how their lives are the shuttlecocks of commerce and the currency. They are helpless in the maze of affairs—helpless, because they do not know. We are not disparaging Latin, but it is better to know the live things, like present-day commerce, than the dead things like Latin, until all bread and butter questions are finally solved.

**EQUIPMENT FOR SERVICE.**  
This is by far the best book of its kind that we have seen; reasonably brief, sufficiently full, and intensely practical. It is also well written and well printed, as decent books ought to be. There are short accounts of the historical development of companies, of

**FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS.**  
AN ABC POCKET GUIDE.

With Easter coming in mid-April, Whitstable in June, and the Royal Jubilee between the two, there will be additional inducement to early holidays looked by those responsible for the "Wheatshaf Holiday Guide," and the 1935 issue, just published, will have a strong appeal to all who intend to make the most of this, whether orthodox or unorthodox, early or late, on land or sea. The "Guide," with its new attractive cover, is packed with useful holiday information. It contains 512 pages, 5,000 holiday addresses where reasonable accommodation can be obtained, many illustrations, and up-to-date descriptions of 300 holiday resorts in the British Isles and Ireland, all arranged in easy ABC order.

Guest house camping holidays have a special section, accompanied by articles from writers who have experienced this type of holiday.

The quick-reference cruising list contained in the cruising and holiday sailings section has been specially revised and rearranged for the person of limited time and moderate means.

This compact little book of handy pocket size can be obtained, price 3d. from all co-operative societies or railway bookstalls, and, alternatively, copies will be sent post free for 41d. in stamps from the "Holiday Guide" Office, P.O. Box 53, Manchester.

**MILK AND TUBERCULOSIS.**

**LONDON MEDICAL OFFICER'S OPINION.**

UNLESS the auspices of the Co-operative "Clean Milk" campaign is organised. No other movement or organisation has done so much to educate the public as to the necessity for a clean, pure milk supply as the co-operative movement. This fact is commensurate upon by the Grigg Commission on Milk. Particularly has the co-operative movement done much to develop facilities for pure milk supplies, and raise the general standard of milk consumed.

At present there is discussion in the Press and elsewhere on the merits of pasteurisation. The Medical Officer of Health for the London County Council has advised that evidence of sampling and veterinary inspection of herds over many years has forced him to the conclusion that in spite of such measures it is, under present circumstances, impossible to ensure a tubercle-free milk supply. It appears, therefore, that the only sensible measure is pasteurisation, which is held to render known harmful bacteria harmless, and does not cause milk to lose much, if any, of its nutritive value. But pasteurisation should be looked upon not as a substitute for the production of a clean milk supply, but only as a necessary auxiliary under present conditions.

(Continued from previous column.)

banking in general, and of the Bank of England. There is an excellent chapter on the financial crisis of 1931, told clearly and impartially, and another on international trade. There could be no better book for a guide; and a chapter read and discussed weekly would be a simple and interesting way of getting practical information of use in a thousand ways. Chiefly, it would fit our readers to vote intelligently, to measure up the world forces around them, and to serve their day and generation more effectively.

**BALANCE SHEET.**

What a balance sheet? This one question alone is a common one from working men in my experience. Well, the question is shortly and helpfully answered in this volume, and the essential principles of foreign exchange are explained in a way that need puzzle nobody. The Cambridge University Press and the author are alike to be congratulated on doing an excellent service to general readers.

**DEPRIVING WORKERS OF HEALTH BENEFITS.**

**HEALTH INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT.**

The 1932 National Health Insurance Act imposed on the unemployed in an injustice to have no, or anything inflicted by the Means Test. It placed thousands of the unemployed in the position of losing all their Health Insurance benefit rights when, owing to prolonged unemployment, they were unable to keep up their contributions. The Labour Party fought against this injustice while the Bill was going through Parliament, but the "National" Government turned a deaf ear to all appeals for its removal.

**170,000 OUT OF BENEFIT.**

The result of the operation of the Act is that to-day there are at least 170,000 members of approved societies who have lost all Health Insurance benefits. Mr. Lesser (president, National Federation of Employers' Approved Societies) puts the number much higher. Addressing the annual meeting of the Federation on March 25th, he declared that no fewer than 270,000 unemployed persons have dropped completely out of the scheme, and are now a charge on the Public Assistance Committees during ill-health. At the end of 1933, unless something is done to alter the present law, these unfortunate victims of the Government's meanness will also lose their pensions rights.

The Parliamentary Labour Party has repeatedly called attention to this scandal, but hitherto without securing a satisfactory answer from the Government. During the debate on the Health Services on March 25th, the Labour Party again pressed the Government to deal with the matter. Mr. Rhys Davies pointed out that the Government's action is depriving the unemployed of benefits at the very time when they are most required. In the distressed areas the situation is tragic.

In the County of Lancashire alone there are 38,000 people affected,

and in South Wales the figures are much higher.

**LABOUR GOVERNMENT—PROLONGED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.**

Before the present Government came into power these unemployed people were kept in the Health Insurance Scheme by prolongation. The "National" Government has thrown them out of the scheme, and in spite of protests from representatives of approved societies and the unemployed, has refused to put them back. The provision allowing approved societies to pay the arrears of unemployed members has failed to meet the case. While some societies are in a position to do this, others are not, and in any case the payment of arrears merely retains membership for the period for which arrears are paid, but does not extend the insurance.

**PRESSING GOVERNMENT INTO ACTION.**

Now, in response to further pressure from the Labour Party, the Government has announced that something is to be done. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health admitted "the gravity of the situation," and has given a pledge that when the report of the Government actuary has been received legislation will be introduced to safeguard the pensions rights of the unemployed after the end of the present year. But he was only able to state that the question of arrears is being considered with a view to seeing to what extent the Government can "ease the position."

Public opinion in the country will not be satisfied until the Government restores the position to what it was before the 1932 Act was passed. It is nothing short of a scandal that this grievance has been allowed to continue so long without redress.

**LORD MELCHETT AND CO-OPERATORS.**

LORD MELCHETT, the well-known industrialist and vice-chairman of the Imperial Chemical Industries, along with Captain Harold Macmillan, M.P., attended the March meeting of the National Co-operative Authority. As officials of the Industrial Reorganisation League, they discussed with the Authority the Industrial Reorganisation (Enabling) Bill, which has been read in the House of Lords by Lord Melchett. Antipathy to the Bill had been expressed at a previous meeting of the Authority.

Mr. Macmillan outlined the object of the Bill, and said it was desired that wherever opposition was manifested against the Bill it should not be based upon misunderstanding. Few people would contest the need for a reorganisation of industry suited to modern needs

and technique. The question at issue was one of method.

Lord Melchett disclaimed any intention on his part of harming co-operative trade or interests by means of the Bill. He hoped the co-operative movement, whether it agreed with the scheme or not, would be a force for ordered progress.

Sir Fred Hayward, who presided, voiced the fear that Lord Melchett's Bill would stabilise co-operative trading at an unjustifiably low proportion, and he quoted wartime handicaps on the growth of co-operative progress.

It has to be realised that however kindly disposed Lord Melchett is towards the co-operative Movement, once a Bill of this character is placed on the Statute Book it must be operated by a person who may be less friendly disposed towards co-operators. The Bill covers industries in which the co-operative movement is already engaged. It covers not only regulated production, but also distribution.

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### PRIME MINISTER JOINS THE CRITICS.

THERE has been many instances lately of the extent to which co-operative criticism is getting to the Cabinet and its supporters, though one is surprised to find the Prime Minister joining with an utterance of characteristic obscurity in the campaign of mis-statement. In his recent speech at Doncaster he is quoted by "The Yorkshire Post" as having said:

There was the problem of agriculture. I speak to co-operators, I think. Your name has been abused in this direction, very much abused. When was it a principle of co-operation to procure cheap goods by doing economic injustice to the people who are producing them? If I have somebody working for me I pay them properly. If I can't afford to pay them properly, I can't afford to employ them. You know perfectly well your fields were going out of cultivation. Labour was going off the fields. Horses were going off the fields. You know perfectly well that the farmer had no security; that when he ploughed, and tilled, and sowed, and reaped, his reward was not secure.

Does the Prime Minister mean? And, if so, what does he mean? He is surely aware that co-operative societies, retail and wholesale, are scrupulous in their observance of fair wage conditions in the goods they handle, make, or

buy—much more so than the protected producers favoured by marketing schemes and subsidies ranging from dardering to the beef subsidies, upon which there has been no limiting condition regarding the rates of wages to be paid to the people employed by the recipients of Treasury largesse.

Still, the Premier's statement is evidence of the fact that co-operative criticism is being felt—and it is simply Mr. Macdonald's conscience?

### A TRIBUTE TO THE LABOUR L.C.C.

THE following tribute to the Labour-controlled London County Council appeared in a leading article in the "News Chronicle" on March 8th:—"Twelve months ago to-day a Labour majority on the L.C.C. assumed responsibility for the government of the greatest city in the world. A year is a short time in the history of local government for results of policy to be fully realised; but already it is clear that London's Labour Administration, under Mr. Herbert Morrison's lead, is working on lines which combined prudence and realism with vision and idealism. Already in government is to be noted. Already there are signs of better approach to slum clearance. Fears of prodigal finance have been wholly dispelled."

## SCANDALOUS TREATMENT OF DISTRESSED AREAS.

KEEN resentment has been aroused among local authorities by the Government's refusal to consider sympathetically their grievances in connection with the postponement of the transference of the able-bodied poor to the Unemployment Assistance Board. On March 20th a deputation of sixty M.P.s, representing English, Welsh, and Scottish constituencies, represented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that "additional assistance should be provided for local authorities in distressed areas in respect of the period from October 1st, 1934, to March 1st, 1935, in view of the expectations which local authorities had formed that October 1st would be the second appointed day under the Unemployment Act."

Mr. Chamberlain flatly refused to be only prepared to make the meagre concession that local authorities might be allowed to meet their charges in respect of this relief by raising loans to be spread over a number of years. The Government can find an extra £10,000,000 for armaments, but refuses to meet its obligations with regard to the unemployed.

Extremely dissatisfied with this rejection, the representatives of the local authorities passed a resolution, expressing "profound regret and disappointment with the attitude of the Chancellor of the Exchequer," and resolving that "the Members of Parliament for the areas represented be requested to take such steps as they consider advisable

immediately to bring pressure to bear on the Government to give financial assistance for the period between October 1st and February 28th." A second resolution appointed a committee to consider whether the Government should be asked to repeal the section of the Unemployment Act requiring local authorities to contribute for one part of the cost of relief for the able-bodied unemployed.

### SCOTTISH PROTEST.

On March 13rd delegates from 16 local authorities in Scottish distressed areas agreed to recommend themselves to refuse to agree to any payment of contributions to the board until the Chancellor recognised the justice of the local authorities' claim for financial relief. A joint conference will be held in London with representatives from the distressed areas in England and Wales.

### HEAVY CHARGES ON DISTRESSED AREAS.

Figures given by representatives of the local authorities show the cost of the Government's postponement of the appointed day in certain important areas: Hull, £12,000; Liverpool, £12,578; Middleburgh, £12,000; Sunderland, £25,000; Bolton, £15,000; Manchester, £10,272; Newcastle, £13,313; Oldham, £12,000; West Ham, £14,000. In Liverpool, the cost of the out of a single year's revenue would involve a 10d. rate; in Glasgow, a 1d. rate. Yet at the municipal elections in 1934 the Socialists who are charged with raising the rates!

## THE DEATH-TOLL OF BAD HOUSING

### FACTS FROM THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REVIEW.

THE "text" volume of the Registrar-General's Statistical Review (England and Wales) for 1935 contains further proof of the death-toll taken by bad housing conditions. In addition to reviewing the mortality from the various causes of death during 1932, the volume contains special studies of the death-rates experienced in the years 1930-32 in towns and counties in relation to the amount of overcrowding in the districts concerned.

Infant deaths under one year of age to each 1,000 born averaged in the three years 57.6 in the county boroughs having densities of less than 0.7 per room, but increased with the density per room to 92.7 in the towns having more than 1.25 persons per room.

Expressed in another way, the rate was 57.2 in the large towns with less than 1.25 per cent. living above the average living more than two per room, increasing to 81.6 in those towns with over 1.25 per cent. living above the average. The rates for urban and rural districts showed similar contrasts.

Deaths of children under five years of age from measles, whooping-cough, bronchitis, and pneumonia in the large towns were also affected by overcrowding. This was also true of the general death-rate at the school ages five to fifteen, and amongst people over sixty-five. A series of tables and diagrams show that while the average risk of dying at any age was greater in the districts with the high degrees of overcrowding than in those with the lower average housing conditions, the contrast was most evident for children under five and became of diminishing importance as age advanced.

Mortality from tuberculosis of the lungs among adults has declined since 1921 by 36 per cent and 24 per cent for females in the large towns having average rates of less than 0.4 per person per room, but has increased group of towns having rates exceeding 0.5 per person per room. The counties show a significant contrast according to hand, at ages twenty-five to forty, the fall in mortality since 1921 has not

been confined to less crowded districts. These facts emphasise the urgent need for Labour's bold national plan in dealing with the housing scandal.

### THE FAMILY MEANS TEST MUST GO.

#### Catholic Clergy Join in Demand.

THIRTY representative Catholic clergy have signed a statement urging that the family means test should be abolished.

The statement declares: "It injures the position of the head of the family, and severely and unfairly on other members of the family who may be working, and tends to injure domestic unhappier, the breakdown of family life, and social discontent generally. Incidentally, it also tends to most of us obviously fail for trade and employment, since it restricts spending-power, which in turn reduces money at once an urgent need."

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**GOVERNMENT JEOPARDISES DISARMAMENT.**

In the debate on "Defence," the Labour Party made a definite charge against the "National" Government. That charge, embodied in the censure motion, was that the Government's policy with respect to defence is in complete variance with the spirit in which the League of Nations was created to establish a collective world peace. This policy jeopardises the prospect of any disarmament Convention, and, so far from ensuring national safety, will lead to international competition, and ultimately to war.

Major Attlee supported the charge with facts which cannot be disputed. He cited the failure of the British Government and other Governments to carry out their pledges as members of the League at the time of the China-Japan dispute as the beginning of the abandonment of the collective peace system. "That failure to make the League effective," he said, "has raised up the Frankenstein that is now frightening the world." Time after time proposals for disarmament have been put forward by other members of the League, but one after another they were sabotaged, and a large share of the responsibility for this tragic state of affairs rests with the British Government.

No impartial person can doubt the truth of Major Attlee's declaration that if at any time during the last four years the British Government had really made an appeal for disarmament, there would have been an immense response.

**BALDWIN'S WEAK REPLY.**

Mr. Baldwin, in his reply, showed that he was fully conscious of the powerful peace opinion of the nation, for he was careful to assure his hearers that it was the policy of the Government to "work in and through and for the League." But he failed to provide what the nation was entitled to expect—an adequate and convincing justification for the change of policy upon which the Government has embarked. Indeed, he ignored some of the most important points, and this omission was significant. Since 1922 we have spent over £1,500,000,000 on the three Services. Yet to-day, so argue the Government, we do not possess an adequate standard of defence. As the Labour Party rightly asserts, this is either gross exaggeration or a grave self-indictment.

The nation ought to know the whole of the facts upon which it is being committed to a new burden of armaments expenditure which will not stop at the £10,000,000 increase for 1935.

**THE TORY MIND.**

The old story was told that Britain alone has refrained from increasing armaments in the hope that the Disarmament Conference would result in a world disarmament. But that plan will not bear examination in the light of an increase of over £20,000,000 in the armaments expenditure since the "National" Government has been in power. Mr. Neville Chamberlain told the truth about this matter in a speech reported in "The Times" on July 2nd, 1934, when he declared that government armaments had been kept down because they felt that the danger of attack upon us from the air was less than that we might go bankrupt if we spend large sums of money upon defence at a time when our people were already overtaxed." Mr. Chamberlain went on to justify increased expenditure on armaments on the ground that "to-day our finances were getting closer. The plain fact that emerged from the debate was that the cheers which greeted Sir Austen Chamberlain's speech were a true reflection of the Tory mind in the present Government. The Tory Party does not believe in disarmament. Its annual conferences have unanimously demanded more and more armaments. And the so-called "National" Government has obeyed its master's voice."

**THE AGE OF PLENTY.**

POVERTY is an easily curable thing. It exists because our money system is wrong, which leads to our limiting production—which we at present call unemployment. There is something set apart from the one-pound note—Smith, have not enough of them. When the boots are taken to be used up, they serve for ever the stock of goods on hand. But the one-pound-note is there as before. It stops in existence and buys still more goods for somebody else! Now surely it could be clear that when goods vanish from the market to be consumed, an equal quantity of money, or purchasing power, should vanish at the same time. Then, providing pounds are distributed in sufficient quantity to be cancelled as spent, we can release the tremendous productive power that is at present largely strangled.

Our present "controllers of industry," and those who control our finance, do for ever stressing the need for foreign trade. But what we really need to give most attention is not the selling of our products abroad, but their distribution in this country. The home market is immensely more important than foreign markets, yet we wantonly restrict our home market and continue hoping for an increase of foreign trade. There is little doubt that if we used all our machinery and productive appliances, and all our labour for a reasonable time each day, the goods we could produce for consumption would quickly be gone. Hence, the same idea, they are now. Why not, then, frame up to get the production?

Suppose, then, we first make a careful estimate of the value, at present prices, of the goods we can produce if we will in one year. That will tell us at once how much consumers' money we can distribute in that same year. We have then to arrange to distribute it.

Since, in this scheme to abolish poverty quickly, we cannot be held up by the opposition of vested interests, it is better, though, to abolish poverty once for all than to abolish the House of Lords, or to secure a completely Socialistic State in a hundred years' time. Both these desirable advantages can take place any time later, and will be the easier to accomplish by a working-class that is free of poverty, weary, and dependence upon a capitalist class.

The steps are, then—

- (1) Find out how much of various classes of products we can make in a year.
- (2) Prepare "consumers' credits" known to us generally as "Money,"—equal to the above products at present prices.
- (3) Abolish wages and distribute this money through the banks, as suggested in this following.

There are two points that should be noted about this money: first, it must not be capable of being spent once, like only a railway ticket; and second, if it is not spent within a limited time—say a year—it must lose its value. At present, the savings of others are the basis of credit. But our money would mean that our total product is the proper basis of credit.

Now, how shall we distribute purchasing power? It will be clear that the above money is consumers' money by the whole of our affairs by having up the whole of our money; with which factories, bought materials, and machinery are bought—these should be no money used for the production of the age of plenty abolished quickly, and everybody is to and relative results for everybody is to be realized in a very short time. There must have no frontal attacks. There is no sense in taking the hardest way to our goal.

Every employer if every anxious indeed that other employers should pay their wages, because he knows that will increase the demand for his goods. He hesitates and even refuses to increase his employees' wages, and perhaps cannot do so, even if he would.

If money, as defined above, is printed, the receivers of rents and interest, and the holders of the highest income they have individually had during any one of the last ten years. But as a condition, they must release raw materials and machinery, without charge, for productive purposes, and rent must be charged for land, houses, and buildings. Raw materials should pass through productive stages without payment, being released by a certificate of title to the munitions certificate of war time. The retailer should have his supplies released to the extent of his takings, that is, at retail price. He will get his income based on his best profit during the last ten years also. The undistributed surplus power would pay much higher wages than are prevalent now, and make the minimum income to worker or unemployed at least £2 a week per person.

As the times go by, with the constant improvement and increased quantity of machinery, the output could still grow, and wealth be in the hands of all.

The first and most important question will be that of foreign trade. That must be controlled by an exports and imports board, there for the express purpose of arranging the transfer of British-made goods for foreign products. On such lines, the exchanges need never be "swank" us, and the gold standard wouldn't matter. Speculation in currencies would cease, and those who for pleasure or business desired to travel abroad would need to exchange some of their "consumers' money" for bills issued by the exports and imports board. That would give the control that has long been wanted and is now urgently necessary upon our foreign indebtedness. "Getting rich quick" and slow and persistent starvation would alike vanish—both of which must remain so long as we persist in this mad money game.

The above is necessarily a brief and even a rough statement of the case, but it is enough to think about. It is the kind of solution that would not be objected to by the rich; and it would abolish poverty, which is our first need of all. "Wages" would in future be discussed in relation, not to the profit of a particular concern, or the nigardness of its management, but to the total output which nowadays is co-operatively produced. The banks would be the pay office, and the employer would neither know nor care how much any individual worker got.

Of course, this foreskadows also the organization of labour by some suitable organization of workers and employers, so that all able-bodied folk were putting in their share of service. Fifty years of production on these lines, with the growing improvements in kind and volume, would transform the face of England by setting new and economically high standards in housing, comfort, and services such as education. "Public assistance" would vanish at a blow, giving place to a co-operative organization for both production and supply, inside which our own movement would function in increasing activity. We should all be in an insurance society to insure us all for every material thing.

Meanwhile, we wait; and medieval Chancellors of the Exchequer use arguments that died but still remain bonded. They and the bankers have no idea later than the war; our machinery of steel is dated 1915, but our machinery of money fits 1735 much better than to-day.

The "Age of Plenty" awaits us; not in some distant and dreamy future, but in the money if we will but open the door. The national dividend has all to be divided—but first it has to be increased to the full measure of our need. Both rich and poor would benefit; the former because no economic storm would disturb his (although the voice of justice must do sooner or later) and the latter because his poverty has been eternally left behind.

**ECONOMY IN EDUCATION.**

The memorandum on the Board of Education Estimates just issued shows that the amount to be spent on education has been reduced between 1931 and 1932 by £3,805,599, in spite of the automatic annual increase in the charge for teachers' pensions. A comparison between expenditure in 1931 and 1932, omitting contributions from teachers and employers, the grant on the employers' contributions, and the charge for teachers' pensions, shows that there has been a real decrease in expenditure on the educational services of nearly £5,000,000.

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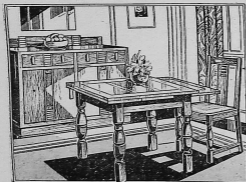
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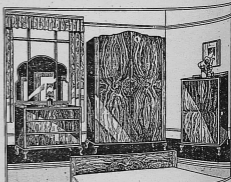
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