



No. 129.

JUNE, 1935.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000 COPIES.

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL.

MR. R. D. BENNETT'S SCHEME FOR THE RE-PLANNING OF SHEFFIELD.

AN item of correspondence at the last council meeting was quickly dealt with at the beginning of the meeting. It consisted of a letter to the Town Clerk drawing the council's attention to the planning of Sheffield.

Mr. R. D. Bennett (a co-opted member of the Libraries, Art Galleries, and Museums Committee) was the writer, and he had gone to considerable trouble and expense to produce a booklet containing six drawings, along with notes, on the re-planning of Sheffield as a whole. Every member of the council had received a copy before the meeting.

A FINE CONTRIBUTION.

The booklet, and the drawings and ideas it contains, are a fine contribution to social development. They are challenging, stirring, and to some people inspiring. They appeal to democracy in the best sense, the whole people. They seek to help in the re-shaping of our city in the only reasonable way, by re-shaping the whole of it on lines that, fifty years hence, our successors will appreciate. Nobody could be more alive to the difficulties, more intensely practical in his outlook than Mr. Bennett.

PAYING FOR IT.

Here, for example, is one of his notes: "The community must, to begin with, definitely make up its mind that if an improvement on existing conditions is to be achieved, then it must be paid for. Any suggestion that re-planning can be made to pay for itself can be dropped once for all. A community that declines to move unless it can clearly see a 'cash dividend' will never move forward at all. That is sound common-sense; it asserts what Socialists have long announced, that profit-making is a hopeless affair from the community's point of view."

THE FUNCTION OF A CITY COUNCIL.

Perhaps the best work that a city council can do is to encourage a public

zeal for good things. Even a city council can become a dictator if it wantonly ignores public opinion, and the re-building of a great city above everything else should be a matter for the whole people. The buildings and layout of any remodelled city should be the expression of the corporate feeling and will. Just as the May-Day joy on the village green in medieval England sprang as a spontaneous thing from the life of the people, so in this more tutored age should all our public things arise.

THE SIZE OF A CITY.

Mr. Bennett briefly discusses the appropriate size of a city. He thinks that for the utmost advantage, its population should not exceed about a quarter of a million. There is much to be said for such a point of view, and certainly the finest governments which have yet existed were those of the old Greek city states. Their public spirit surpassed that of any modern English city, and brought patriotism to a much higher level than anything we know to-day. It was really corporate.

HOUSING ESTATES.

There is very much doubt to be written, for example, whether the widespread housing estates which are continually extending the built-up boundaries of Sheffield are not to be regretted. The countryside is being devastated permanently, and many of the nearest stretches of meadows, upland, and open country is much further out, and more dangerous for this. The houses are certainly a great improvement on the old-time slums, but it is questionable whether the public opinion of fifty years' hence will not condemn us, both for our vandalism as to the countryside and for our conceptions of housing, an improvement it may well be urged, should have been to make the city itself beautiful and healthy, with

high flat-dwellings, nobly and spatially conceived, with adequate automatic lifts, and surrounded by extensive semi-public gardens. That is the only way—Mr. Bennett's way—that sufficient people can be accommodated within a central square mile, and the architectural effect secured that is imperative if a city is to be beautiful. There is a further fact to be considered: all the rebuilding in central Sheffield can be considered from the standpoint of a clean and a healthy Sheffield. Coal fires and steam power and dirty factories are all rapidly passing. The new factories will be clean and remain clean; their electric power will make a clean atmosphere. We can realise, if we will, a Sheffield that shall be as healthy to live in, as clean, and as beautiful with flowers and vegetation as anything in the outer suburbs. If that is to be done, it must be commenced now, and slowly accomplished over perhaps fifty years. If we accept the existing notions of rebuilding Sheffield, the result must inevitably be to hold back its development for a further hundred years.

AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE?

Mr. Bennett makes the suggestion that the "task of re-planning Sheffield is one that should be outside the province of the city council. It is one for an entirely independent committee comprised of representatives of all classes of the community." That, or something very much like it, would in fact have happened except for the economy measure which dismissed Professor Abercrombie. The writer of this article expresses a preference for a town-planning committee of the city council, making the decisions, backed by a voluntary external committee making recommendations, such voluntary committee to be a fully representative one, and contain a number of technical members. The officials of the Corporation, excellent in their way as they

may be, are totally unsuited by training and habit for this class of work. They have had to suppress their imaginations and keep within the narrow lines of rigid committee opinions—and please a variety of committeesmen. Like the "Parents' Committee" of a school, they should be the "Parents' Committee" of the spacing and building of Sheffield. They should be the "Community Council."

COST.

The cost would be considerable, but not impossible, even in existing financial conditions. If Sheffield is prepared for a thoroughgoing reorganisation of its affairs, much of it could be done without any serious burden. It may be well to remember, further, that money is but paper; Sheffield, however it is built, will be built with bricks, stone, mortar, and labour, and we have a surplus of all these awaiting use. Indeed, the 'labour' has to be kept, even if it is doing nothing. But a further pamphlet is being prepared dealing with money and credit, which will appear in due course. More than that cannot be said at the moment. And a still further one is projected on education, which, despite much necessary development during the past eight or nine years, is far from what is necessary. There is no democracy yet and cannot be until the essential facts of our corporate life are known to all, and an informed public opinion created. Bringing in groups of our fellow-townsmen for the consideration and discussion of these matters is much more likely to stir a creative interest than leaving public matters solely to a council, however able. Challenge and helpful criticism, imagination, and courage should be welcomed from all sides. Public ideas must spring continuously fresh from the life and thought of the whole people if democratic cities and institutions are to arise and prosper.

See page 2 for Sectional Plan.

International Co-operators' Day, Saturday, 6th July.

GRAND FETE

(under the auspices of the Brightside & Carbrook Co-operative Society Ltd.)

HILLSBOROUGH PARK, Commencing 2-30 p.m.
ALDERMAN T. H. WATKINS, J.P.

Chairman

Speaker: RIGHT HON. A. V. ALEXANDER

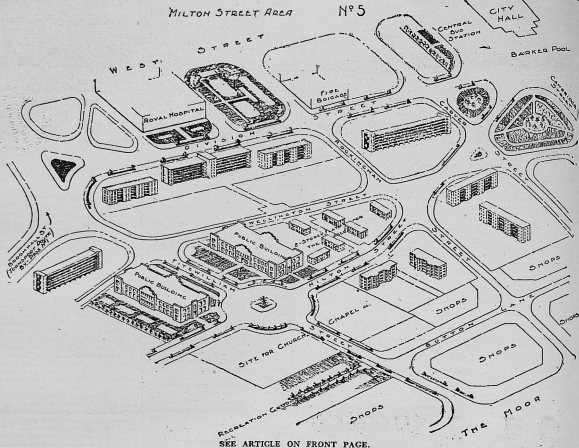
- Maypole and Folk Dances by Co-operative Children, Cromning Circle Quen,
- Children's Sports, Fancy Dress Parade, Decorated Cycle Parade, Historic and Novel Tableaux by the Women's Outside. All the fun of the fair and novelty stalls arranged by the Guilds. Public Dancing—music by Artcliffe Prize Band.

- PROCESSION OF DECORATED VEHICLES, headed by brass band, will proceed from Brightons Lane, 1-30 p.m., via Arterbury, Darlington, Mansfield, Richmond, Wybourn, Burngrave, Neeswood, Infirmity Road, Langsett Road, Middlewood Road, Sutton, Wadley and Wisewood estates; returning via Herries Road, Southey, Shiregreen, Nether Shire, Wincobank, Brightside, Grimsthorpe, New Hill Road, Don Road, Brougham Lane.

Refreshments supplied by the D. & C. Dairy Dept.

PLAN OF CITY REORGANISATION.

One section of Mr. Bennett's plan. Note this is one of the six plans submitted in Mr. Bennett's letter and brochure to the members of Sheffield City Council



SEE ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

ATTERCLIFFE.

THE May monthly meeting was held on the 24th, in the Co-operative Institute, Attercliffe Common, when usual business of the council was conducted. It was decided to affiliate to the South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Federation, and also to the re-nomination of Messrs. Dimerfrine, Marshall, Bech, and Pearce for the Municipal Candidates Panel. A Selection Conference was arranged for the next month. Following the business, Mr. W. H. S. Marsden (tutor, Brigiside and Carbrook Society's technical classes) addressed the meeting on "Co-operation and the Changing Conditions of Life." He dealt with the early history of the co-operative movement and its rapid growth to the modern stage, proving statistically the phenomenal progress that had been made and the service that was being rendered to the members by the societies. Political development was dealt with, and the need for a strong political consciousness amongst co-operators was stressed, having regard to anti-co-operative legislation and unscrupulous tactics of the movement's critics that operated to-day. The interesting address was followed by the best thanks of those present being voted to Mr. Marsden, who suitably replied. The next meeting is to take place on Friday, June 25th, at the same time and place.

A number of those attending the meeting took the opportunity of renewing their membership. The council is endeavouring to secure a record membership this year; old and new members will be welcomed by the secretary, Mr. Norman Shimwell, 222, Attercliffe Common.

BRIGHTSIDE.

A successful Divisional Council meeting was held on May 4th in

the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute, when Councillor E. H. Marshall, J.P., gave a résumé of the Co-operative Party Conference at Southport. The meeting was followed by a social evening and dancing; there was a good attendance of members.

BURNGREAVE.

THE Burngreave Women's Section meetings held in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Secretary, Mrs. E. Veiland, 159, Scott-road.

HILLSBOROUGH.

THE Hillsborough Co-operative Party terminated their weekly meetings on Thursday, May 16th. Programme of further meetings has been left in the hands of the Executive Committee, and members will be duly notified of future meetings. On May and the Southport Conference report was given, and on the 6th a Mock Parliament was held. Mr. R. Payling introduced a "Bill" for the reorganisation of industries. Mr. Bottom (the party secretary) took the role of "Mr. Speaker," and the "Cabinet" was comprised largely of members of the committee. Councillor Slack was "Leader of the Opposition." The Bill proposed was a Socialist one, and the debate showed that party members are fully cognisant of the present industrial situation, and have definite and constructive plans for a Co-operative and Labour majority in Parliament. On May 16th a Selection Conference was held, when Mr. J. H. Pearce was unanimously selected as the prospective municipal candidate for the election on November 1st next. The attendance on November 1st next, Section meetings has revived very considerably. There was no meeting held on the 5th (Julian Day), but on

the 12th the president (Mrs. Salmon) gave an interesting and detailed report of the Labour Women's Conference in Sheffield; on the 20th Mrs. Wood (secretary) gave the report of the party conference at Southport. Most of the meetings during the summer will be sewing meetings, in readiness for a bazaar which is to be held at the end of the year.

NEEPSEND.

THE Neepsend Party held a meeting in the Guild Room on May 28th, when Councillor Stokes gave the monthly City Council report, dealing particularly with the police pensioners, and answering questions relative to the salary increases proposed at the last Council meeting. A proposal was also made to organise an excursion during the summer months, particulars of which will be given later.

The Women's Section meetings held every Monday afternoon in the Institute have continued during May, and the programme for June includes: 1st (Saturday),umble sale; 3rd, social; 10th (Walt-Monday), no meeting; a speaker is to be arranged for the 17th; and on the 24th Mrs. Austin will speak on "International Co-operation."

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

THE Southley and Norwood Section reports they have maintained a good attendance during May. On the 1st evening, Mr. A. Peckett gave an interesting evening on the extracts from writings of A. A. Milau; 8th, Mr. Cox gave the Trades and Labour Council report, which report, incidentally, will be given in future each month. On the 15th evening, the elected Council report, gave his report of the City Council. There was no meeting on the 22nd, on the 27th, however, Mr. H. Pashley reported on the National Conference

of the Co-operative Party, a speech which called forth a long and interesting discussion.

The next monthly meeting will be held on June 12th. The Secretary writes: "We resort now to our summer monthly meetings. Will all our members make special efforts to attend, as we ought to take heed of the advice of Mr. A. Henderson, M.P., to be prepared and keep our machine in order as an election may be agreed on us at an early date. The presence of the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander is long overdue at Westminster, and Mr.

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McGhee, the Parliamentary candidate for Penistone, will be our man in the Penistone area. By your presence at the meetings you will keep informed and be prepared to propagate our case." Women's Section meetings held in the Guild Room, Wednesday afternoons.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

THE Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held a meeting on May 27th, when Mr. R. Fisher was the speaker. Secretary, Mr. A. Wainwright, 30, Lanchester Meetings of the Women's Section are held every Thursday afternoon in the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Rooms, Napier-street. Secretary, Mrs. J. Billan.

SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

17, Bank Street. 'Phone: 2302

Secretary: Mr. A. BALLARD

**SIXTH ANNUAL TRIP
BOURNEMOUTH AND
THE NEW FOREST**

Saturday, June 29th, 1935

PROGRAMME.

Leave Sheffield Midland Station, 19.15 Friday Midnight. Breakfast on Train. Arrive Bournemouth 7.40 a.m. Four Hours' Morning Drive by Motor Coach through the charming and historic New Forest, including visits to Christchurch Priory, Beaulieu Abbey, Lyndhurst, Boldrewood, and Ringwood, and to the Bournemouth Pavilion Ballroom. Luncheon free in this "Pleasant Garden City." Tea in the Bournemouth Pavilion. Evening Steam Cruise to Poole. Train leaving Bournemouth 10.40 p.m. and Poole 11.40 p.m. Supper on Train. Arrive Sheffield 9.40 a.m. Sunday.

Cost for the whole Excursion (including Lunch) 32/6
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APPLICATION FORM.

EXCURSION TO BOURNEMOUTH AND THE NEW FOREST, JUNE 29th, 1935.

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Kindly book seat (s), for which I enclose booking fee (s)

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*For non-members.

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES
AND UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.**

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO HONOUR ITS PLEDGE.

"THE Government's handling of the problem of unemployment is an unparalleled story of one-sided middle-class which would be a disgrace to a parish council."

"This indictment of the "National" Government was made by Mr. Arthur Greenwood in the House of Commons on May 9th, during the debate on the Unemployment Assistance (Temporary Provisions) Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to compensate local authorities for the postponement of the second appointed day (March 1st) on which the Unemployment Assistance Board was to have assumed responsibility for the assistance of the able-bodied unemployed within the scope of Part 2 of the Unemployment Act, 1934—a postponement made necessary by the Government being compelled to withdraw the regulations.

Mr. Greenwood moved a Labour amendment to the second reading of the Bill, expressing the view that the House should not assent to further legislation which failed to give effect to the principle that the entire cost of maintaining unemployed persons who are not in receipt of unemployment benefit should be a national charge. He recalled the fact that on April 24th, 1933, the Minister of Health gave the following pledge to the House—

"One of the bases of this redistribution of responsibility between Local Authorities and the Central Government will be that the Central Government shall accept responsibility, both administrative and financial, for assisting all the able-bodied unemployed who need assistance."

"That pledge was given during the debate on a Labour motion censuring the Government for its failure to make the burden of unemployment a national charge, and condemning the Government's action in driving large numbers of the able-bodied unemployed on to the Poor-Law. The Labour motion was defeated, and an amendment moved by a Tory M.P. was carried: "That this House resolves that responsibility for assistance to all able-bodied unemployed be met over sixty-five years of age should be accepted by the Government."

BETRAYAL OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

At the time that this pledge was given, it was accepted in all parts of the House, and by Local Authorities, as meaning what it said, though Mr. Greenwood expressed some doubt about the Government's intentions. This doubt was justified when the Government's actual proposals were announced. For instead of relieving Local Authorities of the whole of the burden, the Government demanded that they should contribute to the Unemployment Assistance Board 40 per cent. of the cost of able-bodied unemployed under the age of the year 1932-33 as a standard pledge. That was a betrayal of the pledge given to Local Authorities.

This grievance was accentuated by the fact that the Local Authorities had the right to expect that the appointed day would be October 1st, 1934, instead of March 1st, 1935. In spite of repeated requests to the Government, no compensation is to be made in respect of the increased local expenditure on poor relief consequent upon the later date being fixed. All that the Bill does in this direction is to permit Local Authorities to meet deficits caused by such expenditure by borrowing, with the provision that the loans must be repaid within periods not exceeding five years.

A TORY COUNCIL'S PROTEST.

There was no enthusiasm for the Bill among Government supporters, several of whom expressed by borrowing, with the provision that the loans must be repaid within periods not exceeding five years. The object of the policy is to make whatever work there is to be done go round, thus establishing for every normal citizen the right to work, the right to leisure, and the right to a standard of living that befit his status and the reasonable relation to the productivity of the age."

Government on this matter, Mr. Greenwood quoted a resolution passed unanimously by the Liverpool City Council as recently as March 6th. This Council has a Tory majority, and the resolution recorded "profound dissatisfaction with the failure of the Government to provide substantial financial assistance to compensate Local Authorities for the huge expenditure incurred owing to the delay in determining the date of the second appointed day, which the Government had led Local Authorities to believe would be in October, or an even earlier date in 1934."

The new Bill is claimed to place Local Authorities "as neatly as may be" in the financial position they would have occupied had the second appointed day not been postponed. It operates for six months, or until the appointed day is fixed. But it remains to be seen whether the Government's proposal in this respect prove satisfactory to Local Authorities.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE 55 PER CENT. CLAIM.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has claimed that the Government has now accepted 95 per cent. of the cost of maintaining this class of unemployed, and the Minister of Health repeated this claim in moving the second reading of the Bill. But, as Mr. Greenwood pointed out, this claim is based on the fact that the Government bears the cost of transitional payments, and the Chancellor makes the assumption that if the Government did not bear this cost all the unemployed would be entitled to insurance benefit which would go on to the Poor-Law. No Government would dare allow that to happen.

The truth is that Local Authorities have been relieved of only 40 per cent. of their burden. But even if the Government's claim were justified, there is no sound argument in favour of compelling Local Authorities to contribute even 55 per cent. of the cost of a relief scheme in the administration which they have no part. The Labour motion for the rejection of the Bill was defeated, but there will be no cessation of the demand that the Government shall honour its pledge to accept 100 per cent. of the liability for the maintenance of the able-bodied unemployed.

"WORK AND WEALTH FOR ALL."

The Co-operative Party has issued an additional number in the "Britain Reborn" series. The booklet is right up-to-date, and summarises the contents of the other numbers in the series. Commencing with a review on "The Capitalist World, 1934," the pamphlet deals with Capitalism on the Dole, the Alternative Co-operative System, the Economic Programme of the Co-operative Party, and the National Food Crisis, Food Supplies, and Finance. It is a political handbook for every man and woman.

As pointed out in the preface, the policy does not envisage any violent or revolutionary changes in this country. It appeals to the thoughtful, moral, educated sense of the community to use the democratic, constitutional, and legal power of citizenship functioning through the House of Commons and local authorities to carry through changes essential to bring the benefits of modern science within reach of the whole community.

"The object of the policy is to make whatever work there is to be done go round, thus establishing for every normal citizen the right to work, the right to leisure, and the right to a standard of living that befit his status and the reasonable relation to the productivity of the age."

The new booklet contains 108 pages, and is strikingly illustrated throughout. Price 6d. net, post free 7d., from the Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank Street, Sheffield.



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Book Review.

THE GOLDEN EGG.

We used to hear a good deal of one time about "killing the goose that laid the golden egg." We were warned not to kill it. We didn't; but the goose has died all the same, and gold is no more. You could search all the pockets in the kingdom, and whilst you might find coppers and silver, possibly notes, and certainly old tram tickets and decrepit pocket knives, not a solitary half-sovereign would you find.

During the war we found out—everybody did—that capital was a far different thing from what we thought. And now, to continue our education, G. D. H. Cole has edited a book by a group of writers under the title of "Studies in Capital and Investment." The price is 2s. 6d., but you can borrow it from the libraries.

INDIVIDUALISM.

The first section is on "The Failure of Economic Individualism," and the title alone clearly indicates the opinion the writer holds. It is followed by an essay on "The Evolution of Joint-Stock Enterprise," by G. D. H. Cole, who for once has not written too lengthily. They are both mildly critical, though we do not think they add anything to what has often enough been said—and said as well—before. A group of Cambridge Economists next give us thirty-six pages on "Recent Capital Issues," which is mainly a statistical analysis of new investments over the past eight years.

Francis Williams (of the "Daily Herald") writes on "Insurance Companies and Investment Trusts." His conclusion is that "both the insurance companies and the investment trusts represent to some extent an effort to plan the investment of community savings." Whilst this is true, so stated it is a misleading truth, for they are above everything else attempts to make profits, to which end the planning of community savings has been adopted as desirable.

PROFITS.

It is a mere incident, in fact, that has arisen out of quite another intention. That is always the way when any public advantage arises out of private profit-making. It would, for example, be as true to say that private shopkeepers make an attempt to feed and clothe the people. What they really plan to do is to make profits, and that is the sole directing idea in their activities.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

A very useful section follows on building societies, but this, like all other sections, is based on the assumption that the present financial system will substantially remain unchanged. There is no hope whatever of that full co-operation we call Socialism: if that is to be the case. The real revolution required is not so much in ownership as in the issue and distribution of credit. It is a definitely weak and unsatisfactory conclusion to arrive at, as the writer does, that "building societies are an example of how an historic organisation by intelligent direction can be made to serve only the ends of the community."

INVESTMENT.

The concluding sections are on "Foreign Investment," "Foreign Exchange Control," and "The State and Investment." In none of these is it recognised that the only form of investment (that is, of capital) must be a corporate one by the whole community, and belonging to the whole people. In fact, there is nothing in this book particularly different from what might appear in the Midland Bank's monthly circular. As an informative book it is useful; as a guide to co-operators, Socialists, and the Labour Party, it is of no use whatever, is the present writer's opinion.

The introduction, by Mr. Addison, however, seems to indicate otherwise, so far as his view goes. Readers must think out for themselves, and in any case will benefit by reading the book carefully. B.

WOMEN'S NOTES.

By GRACE COLMAN, M.A.
(Prospective Labour Candidate for the Hull and Division.)

In my notes in the April number of the "Co-operator," I tried to look at Germany's rearmament through German eyes, and to put the German Government's case as fairly as I could. I said: "give the German Government the chance to show that, now it has taken equality (in armaments), it means to proceed sincerely with other countries to peace through the League of Nations."

From the speech made by Hitler on May 21st it seems that this is what he does mean to do, and, if his declarations are sincere, they give real hope of peace. Our own Government, however, in its speech, in words, but its actions is to speed-up the expansion of the Air Force, which, by 1937, is to be three times its present strength. And it is clear, from the speech made by Lord Londonderry in the House of Lords, in introducing this programme, that Germany is the bogey which is to be used to secure the country's support, for he said the Government will not, in any circumstances, accept a position of inferiority in the air to Germany. If the programme I have just announced proves insufficient, we will increase it, cost what it may in money or in effort.

LABOUR POLICY.

Our reply is that the armaments do not prevent us from trying our Air Force will not safeguard our country against attack from the air, as Mr. Baldwin told us not long ago. We say, and with truth, that the international situation is such that the only way to peace, the National Government came into power, owing largely to its lack of a constructive peace policy, for it has been such more prompt and decided in preparing for war than it has in building up peace. We say further that Hitler's speech gives renewed hope of disarmament, and that the way to meet it is not to start in an armaments race against Germany, but for the British Government to lead at last a definite and courageous lead for peace through an international conference called to consider not only disarmament, but the causes of disputes between nations. If all nations, including Germany, are sincere in their desire for peace, then agreement on the means to peace would be possible; if any nation is not sincere, then its bluff could be called.

These are the reasons why the Labour Party in Parliament voted against the Government's air programme. But the country will be told at the general election and is being told now, that our policy is to leave the country defenceless in face of attack, even though Mr. Baldwin made it quite clear in the House of Commons that we believe in international disarmament by agreement, not in one-sided disarmament by the country alone; and that to oppose the prevailing jingoism is a very different thing from supporting a policy of non-resistance to attack on ourselves or any other country.

THE WAR-SCARE DANGER.

The Government, of course, does not want war. But it is quite willing to use the unsettled state of Europe as a work on the fears of the nation, to direct the Labour Party in the direction of election. This is shown not only by its rearmament proposals, but by the "talk of air drills," which, as the "Manchester Guardian" says, "would only be exaggerated to spread scares and war fears to their maximum possible extent." As it goes on to say, "the Government which is so generous with plans for the large-scale making of gas masks might be asked what active steps it is taking for peace to prevent our needing to use them."

Lord Londonderry in the House of Lords appended to the youth of the country to join the Air Force, by knowing that Socialism and peace go together, that each is impossible without the other, appeal to us to work with us for these two ideals, on which depend everything for which we strive.

THINGS THAT CONCERN US ALL

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Take advantage of the vast Co-operative organisation, and always ask for

C-W-S GOODS



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

GOVERNMENT BETRAYS LAND WORKERS.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SCHEME THROWN OVER.

The "National" Government has betrayed the agricultural worker. There is to be no unemployment insurance scheme in this session. That is the real meaning of the statement made by the Minister of Labour in the House of Commons on May 16th, in reply to Mr. Tom Williams and other M.P.s. Mr. Tom Williams asked whether the Minister was in a position to say when the Government would introduce legislation to include agricultural workers within the unemployment insurance scheme. The Minister replied:

"The Government have given careful consideration to the report of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee, and have decided to accept the principle of unemployment insurance for agriculture, but without committing themselves to the level of contributions and benefit proposed in the report. There are still a number of important matters to be settled, and I am not at present in a position to indicate when it will be possible to introduce legislation on the subject."

Mr. Williams pressed the Minister to say whether a Bill will be introduced this session. He drew attention to the fact that at least twenty-six contributions will be required before any scheme can operate, and that unless a Bill is introduced quickly, it will be of no use to land workers during the coming winter. But the Minister only repeated that he was not in a position to say when legislation would be introduced.

WHY THE SCHEME WAS DROPPED.

The real reason for the Government's refusal to proceed with the scheme was given by the Parliamentary Correspondent of "The Times" on May 16th:

"It was hoped in January that legislation could be introduced in time for the scheme to be operated by next winter. The agricultural workers' unions supported the proposal, but strongly urged an increase in the amount of benefit."

"During the last few months con-

siderable difference of opinion has revealed itself, among the supporters of the Government who represent rural areas, as to the practicability and the desirability of the scheme."

"In the main, the South and the West of England have favoured the scheme of compulsory insurance, and the North West of England and Scotland have, broadly speaking, been against it."

THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSALS.

The Unemployment Bill, 1934, contained a clause instructing the Statutory Committee to "make such proposals as may seem to them practicable for the insurance against unemployment of persons engaged in agriculture," and to report to the Minister of Labour. The committee, of which Sir William Beveridge is chairman, issued its report in January, 1935, and it declared unanimously that an insurance scheme for agriculture was desirable.

The report suggested a scheme in which there would be a contribution of 4d. per week each from the employer, the employed man, and the State. The rate of benefit proposed was 12s. per week for an adult male, 6s. 6d. per week for his wife, and alternative scales of 2s. per week for each child or 3s. for the first child and 2s. 6d. for each additional child, subject to a maximum payment of 30s. per week. It was estimated that the scheme would affect 703,000 male and 47,000 female workers.

The "National" Government has again shown that its actions are dictated by Tory vested interests. It has thrown over the unanimous report of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee for no reason other than that Tory M.P.s representing agricultural districts are opposed to it, and have threatened trouble if it is brought before Parliament. These M.P.s represent the farmers, not the agricultural workers, in adopting this attitude.

THE HEALTH OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

DISTURBING CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH.

FOLLOWING on a letter from Dr. G. F. Walker (Sunderland) appealing for national consideration of "the deterioration of the health of a very large section of the population" between Tyne and Tees, which was published in "The Times" of December 17th, 1934, the Minister of Health appointed two investigators from the Ministry of Health and one from the Board of Education to inquire into conditions in Sunderland and the adjacent districts of County Durham.

Their report, which has just been issued as a White Paper, affords considerable support to the conclusions arrived at by Dr. Walker, although the investigators affirm that they are unable to accept Dr. Walker's statement that there has been in this area a substantial and progressive deterioration of public health.

They admit, however, that they found "a considerable incidence of subnormal nutrition and some incidence of malnutrition," and provide figures which amply support this finding.

Among over 700 young children examined at welfare centres, the investigators found sub-normal nutrition in 23.3 per cent. in Sunderland and 21.2 per cent. in County Durham; and malnutrition in 6.9 per cent. and 1.4 per cent. Among over 2,300 children of school age whose nutrition was assessed, nutrition was found in 18.7 per cent. in Sunderland, and 20.6 per cent. in Durham; and malnutrition in 2.2 per cent. and 1.3 per cent.

Among adolescent youths examined, sub-normal nutrition was found in 25.1 per cent. in Sunderland and 19.5 per cent. in Durham; and malnutrition in 3.7 per cent. and 3 per cent., making totals of 28.8 per cent. undernourished youths in Sunderland and 22.5 per cent. in Durham. Among adolescent girls, sub-normal nutrition was found in 24.8 per cent., and malnutrition in 1.3 per cent.

Among ante-natal women, sub-normal nutrition was found in 20 per cent. in Sunderland and 23 per cent. in Durham; and malnutrition in 2 per cent. and nil. Among the mothers of young children, sub-normal nutrition was found in 26 per cent. in Sunderland and 19 per cent. in Durham; malnutrition in 8 per cent. and 2 per cent.

The investigators state that the condition of adolescent youths, especially those aged fourteen and fifteen years, is the least satisfactory feature of their findings. Among adult men, there is evidence of some increase in neurotic conditions.

It should be remembered, in considering these figures, that the term "malnutrition" denotes an advanced stage of physical deterioration and that, as is generally acknowledged by medical authorities, there is great difficulty in detecting its early signs. A doctor, working constantly on the spot, like Dr. Walker, has naturally far better opportunities for acquainting himself with the true state of the public health than inspectors from outside who spend a limited time in collecting material for a specific piece of research. Even taken at their face value, however, the figures contained in this report reveal that the incidence of mal-nourishment in the distressed areas is disturbingly high.

HILLSBOROUGH'S PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE.

MR. J. H. PEARCE SELECTED.

At the Selection Conference held on May 16th, Mr. J. H. Pearce, who was the Co-operative and Labour candidate for the Hillsborough Ward last November, was again selected unanimously to contest the ward in 1935. After the resolution had been carried Mr. Pearce, in thanking the Hillsborough members



Mr. J. H. PEARCE.

for their confidence, dealt briefly with the record of the National Government, particularly its failure adequately to deal with slum clearance and the shouldering of the burden on the local authority by the new Unemployment Regulations. The fact that the number of unemployed had not been materially reduced, and Mr. Neville Chamberlain claiming an 80 per cent. prosperity increase with 2,000,000 unemployed still on the register, was indicative of the Government's conception of what real prosperity meant.

Mr. Pearce said that as a socialist, trade unionist, and co-operator, he would ally himself actively with the Labour Government, and, he hoped, thus help in strengthening our cause. Admittedly, the greatest need was a Co-operative and Labour Government in Parliament; meaning, however, much could be done in this city, and, in fact, much was being done in the amelioration of the worst conditions of the present rating system. Mr. Pearce went on to advocate a careful examination of the proposal for a municipal income tax. He appealed for an availing amongst his fellows to a sense of responsibility in their citizenship, an appreciation of the things that really matter, and wound up with a tribute to the Labour majority on the City Council, who had through years of industrial depression vastly improved the services, and proved themselves quite capable of administering the affairs of the city to the best advantage of the poorest of the citizens.

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EIGHTY PER CENT. PROSPERITY!

NEARLY HALF-A-MILLION MORE ON POOR RELIEF.

Official Figures that Reply to the Chancellor.

"Broadly speaking, we may say that we have recovered in this country 80 per cent. of our prosperity."—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget speech, April 17th, 1935.

"To-day we meet in an atmosphere of such happiness and contentment as has not been seen since the war."—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the annual dinner of the British Bankers' Association, May 17th, 1935.

In the House of Commons on May 14th, the Minister of Health gave the following figures of the number of persons in receipt of poor relief (including dependents, but excluding rate-aided patients in mental hospitals, persons in receipt of domiciliary medical relief only, and canals) on April 20th, 1931, and on corresponding days in each succeeding year—

England and Wales.	
April 20th, 1931.....	2,022,241
" " 1932.....	1,195,047
" " 1933.....	1,219,432
" " 1934.....	1,377,160
" " 1935.....	1,333,168
Scotland.	
April 15th, 1931.....	188,132
" " 1932.....	233,898
" " 1933.....	288,785
" " 1934.....	396,430
" " 1935.....	362,975

The figures for England and Wales have increased by 310,927 since 1931, and those for Scotland by 174,843, making a total increase in Great Britain of 485,770.

The 1934 and 1935 figures for Scotland include persons in Glasgow receiving a supplementary allowance from the Public Assistance Authority in addition to transitional payment or unemployment benefit. The number of such persons on April 15th, 1934, was 61,629, and on the corresponding day in 1935 it was 8,673.

POVERTY AND ILL-HEALTH.

FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AGAINST MALNUTRITION.

EVIDENCE of the ill-health and physical deterioration which is arising in many parts of the country owing to poverty and under-feeding was provided by experts at the meeting in London on May 16th, of the Committee Against Malnutrition.

Dr. Leslie Harris, of the staff of the Medical Research Council, in a letter read by the chairman (Professor Mottram), declared that it was impossible to deny that there is extensive malnutrition. "Statistics are available to show," he wrote, "that considerable sections of the community have less money to spend on their food than the bare minimum necessary for health." Referring to the feeding of children, he continued—

"Medical science recognizes that every child needs a pint of milk a day, and relatively few working-class children get it. The general standard of hygiene and good health is notoriously lower

among the poorly-fed industrial population, and is largely due to under-feeding. Medical evidence shows from recent investigations that a large percentage of babies in the slums and among the working classes suffer from nutritional anaemia due to inadequate feeding."

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WHY INCREASE THE CITY ARCHITECT'S SALARY?

(By Councillor W. G. ROBINSON.)

COUNCILLOR BRIDGEWATER "alleged £9,440 was spent on Central Library—more than the estimate. If he had examined the report of this work—but could not see where this money was spent."

It is feasible for the layman who does not understand the ramifications of building to be befogged with this extra expenditure; but the practical man can understand it, and are satisfied with the amount of work for the money expended.

It is the general practice on buildings to have what is termed "extras." For example, there were extras on the City Hall—a contract job. The excavation of the basement was extra expenditure—approximately £40,000. The facing of the corridors and entrance hall walls with Hopton Wood stone cost an extra £10,000.

The extras on the Central Library consist of special ventilation for books which incurred a large amount of work in cutting chases and holes into solid walls built with cement and sand, and cutting through thick concrete floors. There is very little to ward for the job, but it is very hard work and costly. There was also alteration to staircase for motor lift, alteration to heating apparatus, and extra expenditure for excavations in the basement.

This is all extra work which was not thought of when the estimate for the building was accepted.

I contend that building is as essential and is just as important as any other department of the Corporation, and should be recognized as such. We cannot carry on without these buildings of various types. Therefore, why should the city architect's salary be £250 below the chiefs of Health, Water, Electric Supply, Finance, Highways, and Transport departments? There is obviously a case to level up the salary on a par with the other chiefs of these departments.

When the City Hall was proposed, it was proposed to appoint a specialised architect for the building from London. His commission was approximately £50,000 for the job.

Building output has increased three times since 1927. In 1926 the annual work was: New work, £66,657; repairs, one depot; with fifteen men, expenditure, £10,375. The annual average work for the past eight years: New work, £680,937; repairs, six depots, men employed, 250; expenditure, £75,625.

The city architect is responsible for centralised control of repairs for buildings controlled by the Public Assistance Committee, Education buildings, Lodge Moor and all other hospitals, all the estate houses (about 17,000), and all architectural work for the Council. The scope thus widened and the increased responsibility is full justification of the increase of salary.

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MR. HAROLD WILKINSON

GO-OPERATIVE AND LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR BRIGHTSIDE.

In consequence of the fact that Councillor C. T. Richardson (Brightside) is not seeking re-election next November, steps have been taken to secure a prospective candidate. Mr. Harold Wilkinson was selected at a recent conference as the nominee, and will run as the Co-operative and Labour candidate for the Brightside Ward.

Mr. Wilkinson is a director of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society, Ltd., and was the Co-operative candidate in the Hillsborough Ward in 1930. This was the slump year so far as Labour was concerned, and Mr. Wilkinson had only a very short campaign in which to win what is admittedly a difficult seat for a Labour candidate.

Mr. Wilkinson is a keen educationalist, and has always been a strong advocate of the amalgamation of all the Sheffield societies. As a member of the Sheffield and Ecclesall Society he moved a resolution in 1930 with amalgamation as the object.

He is president of the Brightside Divisional Labour Party, and has always been actively associated with Co-operation and Labour.

Mr. Wilkinson is well-known in the ward he is seeking to represent, and it is fully expected that he will be able to carry on Councillor Richardson's fine work in the City Council after November 1st next.

BRIGHTSIDE SOCIETY'S INCREASES IN SALES AND MEMBERSHIP.

THIS Brightside and Carbrook Society's report for the quarter ended April 29th shows a substantial increase in trade; the total for the quarter is £379,446 3s. 6d., showing an increase of £24,516 12s. 11d. when compared with the corresponding period of last year. The turnover for the whole year is £1,532,421 12s. 6d., an increase of £135,051 17s. 3d. The directors attribute some of this splendid result to the Advertising Trade Campaign which terminated in March.

The present membership of the society is 63,516; this is an increase of nearly 2,000 over the corresponding period of last year.

Since the last report the society has opened branch and grocery alterations, and extensions are also being made to the grocery and provision premises at Intake.

The quarterly meeting of the society will be held in the Victoria Hall (Lecture Hall), Thursday, June 6th, at 7-30 p.m.

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PENSIONS FOR OVER 125,000 EMPLOYEES.

This co-operative movement not only gives its employees who are in active service the best labour conditions, but very many societies in addition assist employees who are too old for service and who have left co-operative employment.

According to the report of the Labour Department of the Co-operative Union of Superannuation Schemes, 179 retail distributive societies, twenty-two partnership societies, in addition to national organizations such as the Co-operative Union, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the Co-operative Insurance Society, provide superannuation schemes. Since 1933, thirty-three additional retail societies have provided schemes. The total number of retail employees covered by these schemes is 125,383. The Co-operative Union has in many ways assisted the inauguration of superannuation schemes in an advisory capacity.

SEE TO YOUR VOTE.

A form has been supplied to all householders from the Town Hall. Particulars are required for the new Register of Electors, and the forms must be filled in and posted at once. If the forms are not returned electors may lose their votes.

The names of all the residents in the household, and sub-tenants, who will be twenty-one or over on June 1st, 1935, must be entered in the form.

The new lists of electors will be deposited for inspection in the Town Clerk's Department, Town Hall; the public libraries, the General Post Office, and the offices of the various political parties from July 15th to August 7th. All persons who value their votes should see that their names are included in the new lists.

If you require any help or explanation call or write to: Mr. A. Ballard, Secretary, Sheffield Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank-street.



"I love it with Milk and Jam, Mummy"

It's the 'all-to-myself' helping that starts children off on Shredded Wheat, some mothers say. The rest is easy. They crumb those crisp, delicious threads that simple, wholesome flavour with milk, honey, jam, or banana—and they're won't be for good to the most sustaining, most digestible whole wheat food in the world. Make sure your children are well nourished—tempt them with this ready-to-serve food to-day.



SHREDDED WHEAT

NOT SO BLACK.

For a good many years the co-operative movement has been filling the Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society in one of the leading trade tribunes of the country.

But now the co-operative movement is being the nation's kettle. The report of the Co-operative Coal Trade Association, which will be submitted to the sixty-seventh Co-operative Congress at Cardiff, records the coal trade of the movement.

In the British Isles some 693 co-operative societies are retailing coal. The membership of such societies represents 6,213,868 individuals and the total trade amount to £9,616,746, or 5,308,008 tons of coal.

WORDS TO PLOUGHSHARES.

FARMERS are pleased to see new co-operative factories. The Mayor of Dudley is pleased at the inauguration of a new C.W.S. factory in his town. A co-operative factory means employment for workers under the best labour conditions; it means substantial goods for the co-operative members; it means a co-operative factory means all-round prosperity.

On a munitions centre, the new works will now be used for the manufacture of garden implements. Co-operators are literally turning swords into ploughshares.

More than six hundred people are already engaged in the works. Good luck to the new enterprise!

A CO-OPERATIVE HERO.

MR. JAMES DEANS, who died on April 17th, 1935, was secretary to the Scottish Section of the Co-operative Union for a long number of years. For over half-a-century Mr. Deans was the acknowledged prophet, champion, and leader of co-operation in Scotland. Born in Steverson, near Kilmarnock, in 1845, only a few weeks after the birth of the Rochdale Society, Mr. Deans lived to see the movement grow in strength and in numbers until it came to be the foremost democratic organisation in the country. In Scotland the movement has vigorously grown, invariably following the tenets which were so carefully guarded and propounded by this great co-operative leader.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

THE Co-operative Union has for many years been associated with the work of the League of Nations Union. Representatives of the co-operative movement have been members of the Industrial Advisory Committee.

Recently, however, Sir Fred Hayward was appointed to the Executive Committee of the League of Nations Union. Sir Fred is chairman of the Central Board of the Co-operative Union, and ex-officio chairman of the National Co-operative Authority.

The occasion is a signal of the importance attached by co-operators to the work of the League, and pacific interest generally.

CONTINUED PROGRESS OF THE SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL SOCIETY.

THE Sheffield and Ecclesall Society's quarterly report and annual return shows the increasing success of a well-managed business. The amount of sales for the quarter total no less than £38,005 7s., which is an increase over the corresponding period of last year of £4,123 4s. 4d. The year's sales amount to £178,380 12s. 6d., representing an increase of £7,275 0s. 6d., equal to 4.1 per cent. There has been an appreciable increase in the sales of pasteurised milk, the dairy reporting an increase equal to 25 per cent. over the previous year. Alterations and additions to the plant and machinery are almost completed, which will enable the society to cope more adequately with the increased output.

There has been an increase of membership during the quarter of no less than 1,018; the total membership now stands at 50,910.

Several new developments are also projected. The Thorpe House Estate branch is approaching completion, and will be opened in June, whilst the new branch at Middlesbrough is proceeding satisfactorily.

A scheme of alterations and additions to the Arcade premises of an internal character has also been decided upon; the new plans will allow for more adequate facilities in the general office, which will be transferred to the Ecclesall frontage. A new confectionery bakery is also to be erected on the Archer-road site.

The society has purchased a sports field at Watt-lane, with a large hut and other equipment, an area of land over six acres in extent, which is to be let to the employees' sports and athletic club.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

REPORT TO LABOUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

THE report on maternal mortality and the Maternity Services presented to the National Conference of Labour Women at Sheffield on May 25th, together with a report on Women in Industry, can be obtained in pamphlet form from the Labour Party, Transport House, Smith-square, London, S.W.1. Both reports are contained in the one pamphlet and the price is rd. (post free prices: Single copy, 1d.; one dozen, 12s.).

SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE RAMBLERS

THE 1235 Syllabus—containing programme of rambles for every week, and holidays for the whole year—may be had from the Party office. Price 1s., which includes membership of the club.

ANOTHER TORY LIE NAILED.

THE Conservative Party has issued amongst its advance election propaganda literature a leaflet (No. 3466) which is almost a check-full of false statements—coll, calumnies, and contemptible misrepresentations.

It asserts as official aims of Labour: "THE SOCIALIST PARTY TO GOVERN AS USUAL."

"PARLIAMENT TO BE ROTTEN OR MOST OF ITS POWERS."

These Tory assertions are disproven in a leaflet, "The Socialism of the Central Office is to work up an election scare against Labour—to deceive the electors into believing that Labour will tear up the Constitution, destroy Democracy, establish dictatorship, and deprive Parliament of its authority."

Their crude lying has been publicly unmasked by the leader of the Conservative Party, Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. Baldwin delivered in the House of Commons on May 22nd, 1935, a complete repudiation of these unscrupulous Tory charges.

The Labour Party as a whole has helped to keep the flag of Parliamentary Government flying in the world through the difficult periods through which we have passed. They were nearly wiped out at the poll, coming back with fifty members, with hardly a man amongst them with experience of government. Many would have thrown their hands in, but, from the first day the Right Hon. Gentleman led his Party in this House, they have taken their part as His Majesty's Opposition, and none of those who have not been through the mill in Opposition know what the day-to-day work is, with no Civil servants behind them; but they have equipped themselves for debate after debate, and held their own and put their case.

I want to say that, partly because I think it is due, and partly because I know that they, as I, stand in their heart of hearts for our Constitution and for our free Parliament, and what has been preserved in the world against such difficulties and against all dangers.

"The Times" described this statement as a "moving and well-deserved tribute to the Labour Opposition for their persistence, in spite of their exigent numbers, in preserving the traditions of a free Parliament."

The plain and straightforward course for the Conservative Central Office would be to withdraw at once from circulation literature containing the false accusations referred to. But we doubt whether their leaders' statement would say restraining influence upon Tory propaganda. It will be wise, therefore, for all members of the Labour Party to make a note of the Tory leader's "moving and well-deserved tribute" to the Labour Party, and to see that it is used on every possible occasion to counter the dishonest assertions which Tory propaganda is employing, and will continue to employ, in the constituencies until the General Election has been held.

NEW TEA-TIME TREAT.

SOMEONE ought to offer a prize for really usable new suggestions for tea—good ideas seem to be so rare. One original housewife recently delighted her family with "banana baskets"—a novel and enjoyable dish. Scrup out some of the inside spread on a sharded, oat biscuit, "fork" a ripe banana to a cream, and fill the bowl. Sprinkle with caster sugar and pour cream or "the top of the milk" round the "basket." For a dish that is ready in a moment with no cooking whatever, economical, attractive to look at and perfectly delicious to eat, "banana baskets" cannot be surpassed, although it is a sweet dish, it can form the main item of the meal, for it would be difficult to find any food more nourishing and sustaining. The precious whole wheat goodness of shredded wheat is the finest natural food for energy and fitness, containing as it does all the vital elements of the sun-ripened wheat-ber, including the regulative bran,

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you are free to walk round and inspect all our merchandise without the slightest obligation—so why not try us *first*?

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MANY ATTRACTIVE OFFERS IN

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- You have the added advantage, too, of knowing that for every £1 you spend you are accumulating Dividend which last half year, with Bonus, was 1/9 in the £—an important factor when the needs of the whole family have to be considered.

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