



## CLINICS AT THE COUNCIL MEETING.

At the Council meeting on February 5th, Councillor Mrs. Longden moved a proposal for the establishment of four branch material centres which would be clinics at suitable points in the outer parts of Sheffield.

As a proposal pure and simple, nobody can find fault with it. Mrs. Longden herself is no doubt perfectly sincere, and for such sincerity and support we are more than thankful. But, from the view of the Party, it was a useful stick to hit the Labour and Co-operative Parties with.

## ASBURY'S WIPE-UP.

Councillor Asbury put our case splendidly. He produced facts and figures which demolished the claim of the Jackcoites completely. They have consistently resisted expenditure upon adequate provisions for the well-being of women and young children. They have followed and tried to steal the credit of the Labour Party has brought each of its suggestions to fruition. They condemned wholeheartedly the expenditure upon new schools—high schools, for example—and then prided themselves on its accomplishment at the opening ceremony. They are political cuckoos, though, alas, with nothing but a croak.

## ALDERMAN JACKSON.

Has too much of the police-court manner. He speaks as though he were doing his best for a drunk and disorderly" for whom there was nothing to be said. He knew full well, as did the whole of his supporters, that the first of such clinics, at least, would be provided for in the coming year. They know full well that the Labour and Co-operative Parties could do as they liked, they would build, not four, but as many clinics as are wanted without delay, and charge the entire cost to the well-to-do of Sheffield. There are limits to what the poor can pay in the way of rates—and those limits ought not to be extended. On the other hand, the well-to-do, and especially the well-to-do lawyers, get off easily under the rating system. But the ways mean the rich too little, apart from other glaring injustices.

## LARGER VIEWS.

But clinics should not be considered as apart from other social needs. Already the health committee is seeking powers to erect one clinic at Firth Park, which is excellent as far as it goes. No such service should be provided without careful consideration of other needs, with a view to co-ordinating services and cheapening their cost. Take, for example, the case of Firth Park already mentioned. It probably needs a public swimming bath quite as badly, and probably also a branch office of the electricity department for the purpose of collecting accounts and acting as a storeroom for electric fittings and equipment. In fact, such developments are under consideration as isolated items. There is already a library in that district, but there may well be other social services which need to be met, and the whole of these should be thoroughly explored.

## ORGANISATION.

If that were done, we might have a civic centre at Firth Park, which would be the nucleus as an opportunity permitted, when all necessary services were available. At one and the same building one ought to be able to pay rates, electricity accounts, kind welfare department accounts, and attend baths or clinics as occasion required. That is a service to the citizens, who are not hampered by having to discover different buildings for different purposes. It is an economic method since matters like heating, caretaking, &c., could be considered in relation to one large block of buildings instead of several scattered and small ones. And, perhaps, it would be a matter as any, it would permit really excellent buildings in point of size and design to be situated at suitable points in suburban centres of population. Architectural standards of some

pretension are badly wanted there to encourage better general design, instead of the mere sprawling masses of masonry which tend to blight what is now the countryside.

## CITIZENSHIP.

Moreover, the civic centre sets another standard—in the minds of citizens. It makes the municipality stand for something organised and effectual. It does something else which very badly needs doing—it tends to break down that hard line which separates department from department. They are all Corporation activities, and they must be blended in a unity equal to that of a departmental store of the well-managed kind. They are there to serve customers, and to serve them expeditiously and well. The way of increasing sectionalism in Corporation departments has gone, and it is up to us to frame-up on new lines with economy and efficiency. We can only spend so much in the way of rates; we must see they are spent well.

## LAND.

One other thing. The modern city is throttled in the matter of its improvements and planning by the fact of private property. It should be quite definitely the case that all private property should be available for common ownership and use as and when required, and at a reasonable price. Sheffield cannot be replanned as it might be, because of private interests which at present override those of the whole community, particularly in this so with land, and at the present moment a piece of very necessary land cannot be saved from the speculative builder because of its price—although that price of land was public property still in 1928, when it was "enclosed." Meanwhile its speculative value has been continuously increasing—till now we are beaten! In some instances, land is purposely bought with the intention of making a fat profit out of the public. This action should call for punishment, and the writer of this article suggests that hanging is not too much.

## SOCIALISM.

The Labour and Co-operative Parties stand for Socialism. It is a word which our present "Public Assistance" is unnecessary. If twice as much were spent in such public assistance we should still barely touch the fringe of the real need, and its cure is not a local matter at all, but a national one. We have to have large remedies, carried out on sound lines. There has never yet been any "sound finance," much as it has been lauded. It is essentially in the matter of the distribution of goods and services that the thinking has to be done and the action taken. And we must keep alive the spirit and zeal of the pioneers who made nothing out of their services, but served because they were convinced of its need and worth.

B.

## TEN YEAR PLAN: A NEW ERA.

SIR FRED HAYWARD (chairman, Co-operative Union), writing in the January issue of "The Co-operative Review," states—

Our co-operative position at the beginning of 1935 is one which gives rise to satisfaction. During the last two years there has been a rising tide of co-operative trade. The year 1935 inaugurates a new era.

Recently our progress has been reviewed in terms of the past. In 1936, however, co-operative societies will look before them and measure their progress in terms of the future under the Ten Year Plan.

Every effort must be made to advance our economic position during the year. We must at the same time not fail to cherish and fulfil the indomitable spirit and ideals of the pioneers, who by the realisation of these ideals which will bring prosperity to the people of this and other countries, and ultimately disperse the war clouds which loom on the international horizon."

I.L.O.  
A YEAR'S USEFUL WORK.

THE FORTY-HOUR WEEK—HOLIDAYS WITH PAY—PENSIONS RIGHTS—UNEMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS—MALNUTRITION OF WORKERS.

The "Monthly Summary" issued by the International Labour Organisation contains a brief but impressive account of the work done by the I.L.O. during 1935, which shows how valuable to the workers of all countries is this section of the League of Nations machinery.

First place is given to the question of the shorter working-week. The "Summary" points out that in 1910, the constitution given to the I.L.O. at its creation laid down as one of the principles that all industrial communities should endeavour to apply to the adoption of the eight-hour day or the forty-eight hour week."

In 1935 the general conference of the I.L.O. voted a convention affirming the principle of the forty-hour week without any lowering of the standard of living of the workers.

This simple comparison clearly shows the rapid development of the problem of the rapid development of the problem of work, regarded both as a means of alleviating unemployment, and as a consequence of the steady march of technical progress. It also shows the important advance achieved during the past year by its I.L.O. in the field of vital spheres of its activity. The forty-hour week is henceforth the goal of its efforts.

Having realised the first application of this principle by the adoption of a convention for a further branch of the preparing similar draft conventions to apply the reform internationally in public works, the building and construction industry, iron and steel, coal mines, and the textile industry for presentation to the 1936 session of the International Labour Conference.

## MILLIONS OF WORKERS AFFECTED.

The question of the reduction of hours in the printing and bookbinding and chemical industries has been held over for probable inclusion on the agenda of the 1937 session. The problem of the reduction of hours in the branches of the glass-making industry not covered by existing conventions is also being studied.

Although exact figures are not available for all countries it is evident that they already include tens of millions of workers directly affected by the action of the I.L.O. in the field of the limitation of hours.

To the workers mentioned above must be added seamen, who have for a long time demanded equality of treatment with shore workers in this respect. As a result of an agreement reached in March, 1935, between representatives of the shipowners and seamen at a meeting of the Joint Maritime Commission, it is now possible that a mutual basis of settlement on the question of hours and muzzing may be reached in the near future.

## HOLIDAYS WITH PAY.

The question of holidays with pay for seamen will also probably be settled at a special Maritime Session to be held in the autumn of 1936. The application of the principle of holidays with pay to industry and commerce will be a subject of a final discussion in June, 1936, after having successfully passed a first discussion at the 1935 conference.

The 1935 conference also did very useful preparatory work in the matter of the regulation of certain systems of recruiting of workers, and a convention was finally adopted on the complicated problem of the maintenance of the present rights of workers moving from one country to another.

By another convention it laid down the general prohibition of the employment of women in mines.

Another important piece of work was the adoption of a detailed recommendation on the measures to be taken in connection with the unemployment of young persons, which is a particularly serious aspect of the world depression. It was the preparatory studies of the I.L.O. which revealed that there were the alarming number of six or seven million young persons in the world without employment.

## MALNUTRITION AMONG WORKERS.

The problem of the malnutrition of workers also came up at the 1935 session and was afterwards discussed by the assembly of the League. The resolutions adopted from the basis of studies carried out in collaboration by the international institutions concerned, both on the necessity of assuring adequate nutrition for the workers, and on the possibility of relieving the depression by the increased consumption of agricultural products. At the end of 1935 the total number of ratifications officially registered was 678, as compared with 636 in 1934. Last year, for the first time, America and Russia, as well as Afghanistan and Ecuador, took part in the International Labour Conference as full members. The United States and the U.S.S.R. have also taken their places on the governing body of the I.L.O. among the eight State members of industrial importance. The total number of countries now belonging to the I.L.O. is sixty-one.

Among decisions of the governing body mention may be made of that which calls attention of the 1936 conference to the problem of the safety of workers in the building industry, and those concerning the extension of international protection to categories of workers not yet covered, and the question of the workers' spare time in connection with the reduction of hours. Another important result obtained was the application to the staff of the Indian railways of the 1919 Convention on hours and work. In addition to all this work, advisory committees on subjects affecting the lives of the workers have been meeting through out the year, and the research staff of the I.L.O. has been supplying valuable material. It should be noted that the International Labour Organisation has amply justified the high hopes placed in it when it was established.

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**CO-OPERATIVE PARTY'S VICTORY SOCIAL.**

PRESENTATION TO MR. ALEXANDER.

TRIBUTE FROM SHEFFIELD AND THE MOVEMENT.

SHEFFIELD co-operatives have reason to be proud of their achievements in securing representation on the city council and in Parliament, and did not hesitate to express their pride in the municipal elections in 1935 at a victory social held in the City Hall, Sheffield, on Friday, January 20th. The whole suite of dance rooms was required to accommodate the guests who were received by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, and thanked for their services during the two election campaigns.

The occasion was also used to present Mr. Alexander with his portrait in oils. There were guests also from co-operative societies and guilds who were anxious to pay their tribute to the work of the first Co-operative Cabinet Minister in this country.

**MR. ALEXANDER'S CAREER.**

Almerman J. A. Longden (president, Sheffield Co-operative Party), in making the presentation, said Mr. Alexander was adopted by the Sheffield Party in September, 1921, elected to Parliament in November, 1922, re-elected in 1923, and again in 1924. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade in the first Labour Government, and appointed a member of the British Empire Parliamentary Delegation to Australia in December, 1926. Again re-elected to Parliament in 1929 and became First Lord of the Admiralty, playing a very prominent part in the London Naval Conference, he won the approval of political friends and opponents alike by the masterly way in which he carried out his duties at the Admiralty.

Along with many of his colleagues he was, unfortunately, defeated in the "stunt" election of 1931, but retained his loyalty to the Hillsborough Division, and, on the occasion they were celebrating that night, had polled more votes than at any previous election.

Almerman Longden paid a tribute also to the work of Mrs. Alexander's in fact, both had endeavored themselves to the interests of the Sheffield people in general and Hillsborough people in particular. He hoped the presentation would be regarded by the family as a tribute to their work. It only represented to a small extent the appreciation of Hillsborough and Sheffield supporters and that of many co-operative friends in other parts of the country.

It has become the habit of democracy to honour its leaders and servants after they had passed away; members of the Co-operative Party were delighted to have been able to honour their splendid representative whilst he was with them, and hoped that he and Mrs. Alexander would have many years before them in

which to serve the great cause of co-operation and the people.

**MR. ERNEST MOORE.**

Referring to the artist, Mr. Ernest Moore, Almerman Longden said that the portrait was a work of art by a great artist. He could not enumerate the many famous people who had sat for Mr. Moore, from Sir Henry Irving to Mr. Paul Hymans, the Belgian Statesman, but he was pleased that Mr. Alexander had been chosen to represent co-operation and Socialism at the hands of so great an artist. Almerman Longden claimed that he had prophesied when Mr. Alexander was first selected that no really progressive Government could be complete without Mr. Alexander in the Cabinet.

**MR. ALEXANDER'S RELY.**

Mr. Alexander, who was accompanied by his wife, his daughter, Trixie, and his sister, Miss Dora Alexander, a Bristol headmistress, thanked the donors for their great generosity and for this further example of their loyalty. He and his family would never forget this occasion and the good wishes with it. He could not give them a political speech that evening, and he left the occasion hardly warranted it. All would agree that the rightness of the case they

**GROWING CO-OPERATIVE MILK TRADE.**

EXTENSIONS TO C.W.S. DAIRIES.

In 1935 the Co-operative Wholesale Society handled about 45,000,000 gallons of milk, or one gallon out of every twelve sold to the domestic consumer. Consumers' preference for pasteurized milk has been met largely by co-operative societies, and the C.W.S. trade, which was commenced in 1917, has consequently increased rapidly year by year. In order to cope with the increasing demand new dairies are being opened, and extensions are being made to the sixteen already owned by the society.

At the Chaiquey dairy, near Clitheroe, extensions are being made which will increase its capacity from 4,000 gallons a day to 10,000 gallons a day. A new dairy, capable of handling 5,000 gallons a day, will be opened shortly at Overton-on-Dee. The Conington dairy is being remodelled to cope with three times its present capacity.

The society's newly-acquired Penryn (Cornwall) creamery is to be equipped with pasteurization and bottling plant.

presented in Hillsborough during the general election regarding the international situation had been demonstrated as completely as possible. He wanted to remind them of what was said during that election and to point out to them how it was coming true. Prosperity with peace would only come when people were prepared to go out and get it for themselves through co-operation, trade unionism, and self-sacrificing patriotism for the general good of the community.

**PARTY'S LOCAL SUCCESS.**

The Sheffield Co-operative Party were successful in securing the election of six councillors in the recent municipal campaign, and the chairman (Mr. Longden) was elevated to the Aldermanic Bench, making a total of thirteen directly-elected Co-operative Party representatives on the Sheffield authority.

Mr. A. Ballard (Mr. Alexander's agent and secretary to the Sheffield Co-operative Party), who also spoke, asked for an intensive Co-operative Party membership as a result of these victories and as a sequel to this happy occasion.

The portrait was to be exhibited at the Graves' Art Gallery, Sheffield, for a few weeks.

There were nearly 1,000 people present and a programme of old-time and modern dances was enjoyed by old and young alike. Altogether the evening was a huge success.

The Brightside and Carbrook restaurant department arranged the catering which was efficiently served by the restaurant staff.

New bottling plant is also being laid down at the dairies at Witham, Melksham, Cricklade, and Stowmarket.

The manufacture of milk products by the C.W.S. is being extended. At Basford Bridge (Cheshire) a plant capable of making 2,000 lbs. of cheese a day has been installed, and the Chaiquey dairy will soon be able to turn 6,000 gallons of milk into butter and cheese every day. Extensions at the Fole dairy will enable 20,000 gallons of milk a day to be used in the manufacture of condensed milk. Several other dairies, including those at Cricklade, Conington, and Penryn are being similarly extended.

**LOW WAGES IN GROCERY TRADE.**

The National Union of Shop Assistants has recently finished an extensive piece of research into the wages of male grocery assistants who are not covered by trade union agreements.

The figures for men over twenty-one years of age are summarised as follows:  
Over 55s..... 7.0 per cent. of total.  
50s to 55s..... 17.3 " "  
40s. to 49s. 11d..... 33.8 " "  
Under 40s..... 47.9 " "

**SHEFFIELD TRIBUTE TO MR. A. V. ALEXANDER.**

Mr. A. V. Alexander (right), accompanied by his wife and daughter, received his own portrait in oils from Almerman J. A. Longden (chairman, Sheffield Co-operative Party) at a social to commemorate the Party's victorious campaign in Parliamentary and municipal elections in Sheffield. Almerman Longden, Almerman Alexander, and Mr. A. Ballard, his agent.



By courtesy of the Independent.

## CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES.

## ATTERCLIFFE.

The annual meeting of the Attercliffe Divisional Council was held on January 31st, when the president's report was accepted with thanks. The report covered a period of improved activity in the section. There had been an increase in attendance at the meetings during the past year, and the general position argued well for a successful session. The members applied themselves to devising ways and means for increasing the usefulness of the organisations. Amongst other suggestions considered was that of a series of Sunday evening meetings in the Institute. Mr. Norman Shawell (secretary) gave a report of the South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Federation Conference held at Doncaster recently.

The next meeting is to be held on Friday, February 28th. Membership fees for 1936 are now due, and the secretary requests that as many as possible should be forwarded before the next meeting. Subscriptions may be paid in stamps.

The statement of accounts showed a satisfactory position, the officers for the year are as follows: President, Mr. J. Simms; vice-president, Mrs. P. M. Smeeting; secretary, Mr. Norman Shawell; 222, Attercliffe, Commercial Ward secretary—Attercliffe, Mrs. E. Brinsley; Tinsley, Mr. J. W. White; and Darvall, Mrs. Marrows.

## BRIGHTSIDE.

The annual meeting of the Brightside Divisional Council took place at the Brightside Co-operative Institute on January 28th. A number of new members were enrolled. Councillor Harold Wilkinson, a member of the Brightside and Carbrook boards of management, gave an interesting address on "The Problems of a Co-operative Directorate." Questions and discussion took place. The following were the officers appointed for 1936: President, Mr. J. W. Hubbard; secretary, Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sivey-avenue.

The secretary's report showed that a good number of meetings had been held during the session; that the membership had been very active in both the municipal and Parliamentary elections, and that an additional thirty-two members had been enrolled.

The Burngreave Women's Section re-opened their weekly meetings on January 8th, and the secretary reports that they have maintained a good average attendance throughout the whole of 1935. On the 26th inst. the election of officers and committee took place and resulted in the re-appointment of the president, Mrs. L. Fletcher, and the secretary, Mrs. E. Yelland, 139, Scott-road. On January 22nd a social evening was held, and on the twenty-ninth Mrs. M. Owen spoke on "Working Together for Co-operation." Programme for February: 1st, Mrs. A. Bosch (member of the Brightside and Carbrook Education Committee); twelfth, Miss Baker of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre will be the speaker; nineteenth, a special evening; twenty-sixth, Mrs. P. M. Smeeting on "Literature for the Housewife."

## HILLSBOROUGH.

There has been a revival of interest in the Party meetings during the New Year. The president's report on Monday which was held in the guildroom, drew a good attendance of members. On January 9th, Mr. J. H. Pearce (secretary Brightside and Carbrook Education Committee) was the speaker at the sixteenth a well-attended social evening was held; and on the twenty-third, Councillor R. Fisher was the speaker. The annual general meeting, held on the thirtieth, drew a good crowd. Mr. W. H. Bottom (secretary) gave an interesting report of the year's activities, and expressed satisfaction of the splendid work of the members during the Municipal and General Elections. Councillor H. Slack and Mr. F. C. Mead detailed the accounts and balance-sheet for 1935. Mr. A. Ballard (Party organiser) gave the report of the central committee. The election of officials resulted in: President, Mr. H. C. Organ; vice-president, Mr. R. Payling;

financial secretary, Mr. F. C. Mead. The president made an appeal for intensified work during the coming session to consolidate the organisation which had resulted in such a splendid victory for Mr. Alexander. The Party is running a series of old-time dances every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.; inclusive admission, 6d. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend. The programme for February: Right Hon. A. V. Alexander would be visiting the constituency, from February 14th to 16th, that he would speak at the Wycliffe Hall on February 14th at 8 p.m., and that he would continue his talk on "Russia," at the Institute on Sunday evening, February 16th.

Programme for February: Sixth, City Council report by Councillor H. Slack; thirteenth, social the guildroom; twentieth, Councillor H. Morris will speak on "Law for the Million"; and on the twenty-seventh, Mr. W. Berra will give an eastern lecture on "Political Capitalism." The women's section re-opened on January 6th with a social, and on the thirteenth the annual meeting was held and the election of officials for 1936 resulted as follows: President, Mrs. E. Salmon; vice-president, Mrs. C. Bottom; and secretary, Mrs. R. M. Wood, 13, Hillsboro-place. On the twenty-seventh, speaker, Councillor J. F. Williams (West Riding Municipal Board).

Programme for February: Third, social; tenth, Councillor H. Morris; seventeenth, Mrs. J. Birall on "Pensions at Sixty"; twenty-fourth, Councillor R. Fisher will speak on "Babies Through the Ages." Meetings held at the Institute every Monday at 2.45 p.m. All co-operative women cordially invited.

## NEEPSAND.

The Neepsand area secretary reports that in addition to the ordinary meetings which have been well attended, the annual treats given to the old people and the children respectively, were very successful. The committee pay a special tribute to Councillor and Mrs. Stokes and members of the women's section. The Year of Neepsand (Rev. J. E. Foster) kindly placed the St. Michael's Institute at the disposal of the organisation, and assisted very materially in the success of these two occasions. A feature of the old people's treat was a visit by the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander and Mrs. Alexander, both of whom received novelty presents in honour of the occasion. The committee wish to place on record their thanks to all who subscribed and assisted in any way to bring a little brightness into the lives of the old and young people of the Neepsand district.

An outing club has been started in readiness for the summer period when it is hoped to repeat the success of last year's trip.

The women's section meetings, which are held every Monday afternoon in the Institute, continue to draw a good attendance. Programme for February: Third, social; sixth, Mr. J. H. Pearce; seventeenth, Alderman C. Smith; twenty-fourth, Mrs. Fryer (member, Brightside and Carbrook board of management). The prizes for the bulb competition will be distributed at the meeting on March 16th, when Mrs. Alexander will be present.

## SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood district secretary reports the re-opening of activities on January 8th. The first City Council report. The annual "Mock Cutlers' Feast" was again a great success, the Institute being packed for the occasion. Mr. A. Ballard proved a very able "Chief Guest," his humorous speech dealt with a long string of the failures and shortcomings of the National Government. Mr. A. Peckett proved an able "Master Cutler" and delivered a humorous speech with some sly digs at the powers that be. Councillor R. Fisher and Mrs. Womersley filled the office of "Lord Mayor," and "Lady Mayors" respectively, with the dignity that such an occasion warrants. Mr. Holder (secretary) acted as "Usher." The evening terminated with concert

Items for which the committee is indebted to Councillor R. Stokes.

The annual meeting, at which the reports, &c., for 1935 were considered, drew a large attendance, and the meeting was delighted with its achievements of the past year. They had assisted in the return of Mr. McGehee as member of the Penistone Division, and the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander for the Hillsboro Division, and in the municipal elections secured the return of Councillor R. Stokes and Councillor R. Fisher (unopposed).

Commencing on February 9th, the weekly evening will be held on Thursdays instead of Wednesdays.

The women's section meetings, held in the Institute every Wednesday afternoon, held their annual tea and social on February 5th.

## SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held a successful whist drive on January 14th; on the twenty-seventh, Councillor R. Fisher was the speaker. The annual meeting is to be held on February 10th, when the programme of events for the year will be arranged; twenty-fourth, Mrs. Ladbrooke will be the speaker.

Mrs. Williams has been appointed secretary for the women's section for 1936, and Mrs. J. Burton president. Mrs. J. Billam, after many years of service in the capacity of secretary, has had to resign owing to pressure of work. Mrs. Billam reports that "throughout 1935 the meetings have been of a very instructive and educational character. We have had speakers on every type of subject of interest to the citizen and co-operator. The representation at conferences connected with both the political and educational sides of the movement, and our delegates have thus kept members in touch with the national work. The representation at the national conference of the Party proved a useful link between national and local activities. The summer excursion to Llandudno proved to be popular. We regret to report the passing of two active members in the persons of the late Mrs. White and Mrs. Gilmour.

The annual tea and social will be held on Thursday, February 27th, in the Napier-street Institute. Tea 5.30 p.m. to be followed in the evening by a whist drive. Tickets (tea and social), 1s.; social only, 6d. Tickets to be had from the secretary, Mrs. E. Williams, 8, Dart-square, or any of the members.

## CHILDREN'S CIRCLE AT WISEWOOD.

A CO-OPERATIVE Circle has been formed for children from ten to fourteen years of age. Meetings are held every Monday in the Wisewood Council School at 6.30 p.m. Mrs. H. Wood, 48, St. Andrew's Hill, will be pleased to send letters or daughters of co-operative members.

## DEATH OF MR. J. BENTLEY.

We regret to report the passing of Mr. J. Bentley, of 69, Pennington-avenue, who was for many years a prominent worker for the Co-operative and Labour cause in the Walkley area. He has always been on the active workers' list during Mr. Alexander's election campaigns. Mr. Bentley was seventy-eight years of age. Representatives of both the Co-operative and Labour Parties attended the funeral, and sent floral tributes, when he was laid to rest at the Crookes Cemetery on January 15th.

## THE NEW "REYNOLDS."

MARCH 1st is a date to be noted. It is the date on which the first issue of the new "Reynolds" appears. "Reynolds" is your own Sunday newspaper. As a member of a co-operative society you are part owner of this famous Sunday newspaper, which will be published for the first time from its new home in Gray's Inn-road. From Sunday, March 1st, the paper will have all the best attractions of that British institution, the Sunday newspaper. In addition, it will be prepared to take up campaigns on behalf of the consumer. It stands for social progress. Make "Reynolds" your Sunday newspaper.

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CITY STORES, EXCHANGE STREET, AND ALL BRANCHES

## ADVANCE OF SOCIALISM IN NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

### Majority Governments Probable This Year.

GENERAL Elections will take place in Norway and Sweden this year. In both countries the Social-Democratic Parties have held office for the past seven years as minority Governments relying on the support of Radical sections. The effective work of the Socialists has, however, so strengthened their support among the people that the elections are expected to result in the return of a Socialist majority over all other parties in each country.

It is noteworthy that even the German Nazi "Frankfurter Zeitung," in a recent article on the coming elections, had to admit: "In Sweden, as in Norway, it will be decided whether the Social Democrats will secure the absolute majority in Parliament. In both cases it almost seems as if this will be so."

During the past year the Swedish Socialist Party made a further big increase in its membership, especially in the country districts, and the Socialist women's organisations now have a record membership. Similar progress has been made by the Socialist Movement in Norway.

### "AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS."

In a special article on the work of the Swedish Socialist Government, which appeared in "The Times" on January 23rd, it was frankly stated that: "At home the Swedish Government is pursuing a policy which has been so successful that it might well serve as an example to others," and that it has "led to a revival of internal activity beyond the point reached in the boom year of 1929."

The remarkable success of this policy may be seen from the present economic and financial position of Sweden under Socialist rule. In spite of the large sums expended by the Government on promoting industrial activity and on developing social insurance, &c., the Budget laid before the Riksdag last year was balanced, taxation was reduced by 20,000,000 crowns, and loans amounting to 300,000,000 crowns were paid-off seven years before they were originally due for redemption. Unemployment has been reduced to what was regarded as normal before the world economic crisis set in, and purchasing-power is back at its "boom" level.

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Made by Leicester Self-Help Co-operative Shoe Manufacturers Ltd., 21, Market Road, Leicester.

## LABOUR PARTY'S REPLY TO COMMUNIST PARTY.

### WHY AFFILIATION WAS REFUSED.

ON November 9th last, the Labour Party received a written application for affiliation from the Communist Party. This letter (the text of which was published at the time) was considered by the national executive of the Labour Party at a recent meeting, and the following reply, signed by Mr. J. S. Middleton (Party secretary) has been sent to Mr. Harry Pollitt.

"The national executive committee had before it at its recent meeting your letter applying for the affiliation of the Communist Party to the Labour Party. After full consideration, the national executive committee came to the conclusion that no circumstance had arisen to justify any departure from the decision registered by the annual conference at Edinburgh in 1922, when, after a lengthy discussion (in which you will remember you took part), a similar application for affiliation was rejected by 3,850,000 to 262,000."

"On that occasion it was clearly stated that the fundamental difference between the democratic policy and practice of the Labour Party and the policy of dictatorship which the Communist Party had been created to promote was irreconcilable. No events which have taken place in the intervening period have served to reconcile that profound political distinction."

"It is true that Fascism has conquered power in various European States. In the opinion of the national executive committee, however, the victories of the Fascist dictatorships were in part facilitated by the campaigns for Communist dictatorship that preceded them—campaigns which effectively split the working-class movement and rendered their overthrow possible."

"Moreover, the national executive committee cannot fail to take note of the proclaimed fact that the present application for affiliation is but an evidence of the deviation in the tactics which have been pursued by the Communist International in recent years, and that affiliation is sought, not for the purpose of promoting the Labour Party's declared policy and programme, but, on the contrary, to utilise Party facilities on its platform, in public conference, and in the Party Press, to displace their essential democratic and Socialist character and substitute a policy and programme based upon Communist Party principles."

"The national executive committee is as firmly convinced as were their predecessors that any weakening in the Labour Party's defence of political democracy, such as the affiliation of the Communist Party, would inevitably assist the forces of reaction, would endanger our existing liberties, and would retard the achievement of Socialism in this country."

"In these circumstances, the national executive committee is unable to accede to your application."

## LABOUR WOMEN'S FAMILY PARTY.

### Unique Competition.

THE Sheffield Labour Women's Advisory Council hold a family party every year at which all the women's sections in the city contribute a concert item, competing for a silver shield given by the local Members of Parliament. This year's contest, which is the eighth, will be held at the Montgomery Hall on Saturday, April 27th, at 8 p.m. Mr. A. Ballard (secretary, Sheffield Co-operative Party) is one of the adjudicators. The charge for admission is: Adults, 6d.; children, 4d.

The event has now become very popular and intending visitors should secure their tickets early from any member of the committee, or from Mrs. J. Redbeck (secretary), 2, Cambridge Arcade, Finstone-street.

## SCHOOL-AGE BILL IS A FRAUD.

### MAJORITY OF CHILDREN WILL NOT BENEFIT.

THE text of the Government's Education Bill confirms the fears expressed by the Labour Party and all education authorities that the measure would free to enter the labour market at the present leaving-age.

In spite of the storm of protest aroused and the reasons advanced by educational experts, exemptions are to be allowed when "beneficial" employment can be obtained. In the words of the Bill: "If a local education authority is satisfied after consultation with the local committee for juvenile employment that the employment will be beneficial to the child, the authority must grant an employment certificate to the intended employer in respect of that child."

"This clause will mean, as numerous authorities have pointed out, that many districts in which 'beneficial' employment will specially be found for the young people of fourteen. Even an enlightened council will be reluctant to keep its young citizens at school if local jobs are being handed out to boys and girls from neighbouring districts in which a retrograde policy is pursued. The Association of Education Committees is to meet on February 10th to protest against the exemption."

The educational objection to the exemption scheme is unanswerable. If some children are to be removed at the age of fourteen to the Hadow scheme—which proposes to treat all education for children over eleven as secondary—into operation. Children who enter a senior or central school at the age of eleven and leave at the age of fourteen have but a short a period in their new surroundings to be able to receive a satisfactory course of secondary education.

"At the same time, it is impossible to plan a course of study for pupils who may be liable to leave school in the middle of their syllabus. The new Bill, if passed in its present form, will endanger the development of secondary education."

Finally, the Government does not propose to put its Bill into operation for three years. For this delay in introducing a so-called reform there can be no excuse. The Labour Party will fight at every stage to secure the defeat of this futile measure and the introduction of legislation providing for the compulsory raising of the school age for all children, with adequate maintenance allowances to poor parents during the extra year at school.

## UNDER-NOURISHMENT AND AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

### A Banker Urges Increased Consumption.

Public attention is at last being directed to the relation between under-nourishment and agricultural depression. Following on the discussions on nutrition and the food supply which have taken place recently at Geneva, a suggestion comes from a prominent banker that the problem of the under-paid farmer and the underfed consumer is one and the same.

Speaking from the chair at the annual general meeting of the National General Bank, Ltd., on January 30th, Mr. Colin F. Campbell suggested that to fill the gap in our foreign trade, the Government should improve the feeding of the under-nourished. He mentioned with approval the suggestion made at Geneva that it might be more satisfactory to approach the problem of agricultural depression from the angle of increased consumption rather than from that of subsidising producers, and quoted a recent estimate that if the under-nourished classes in this country were able to enjoy a full diet, there would be an increased trade in foodstuffs amounting to about £200,000,000 a year.

## THE CO-OPERATIVE WAY OUT.

"If we want prosperity in this country and to bring it about with a minimum of inconvenience, surely any Government worth its salt should say that here is the highway to prosperity. Let us raise the wages of the people of this country, make it impossible for any employer to exploit men and women because of their human needs, reduce the hours of employment and make compulsory a system such as we have in the co-operative movement whereby men may retire at sixty or sixty-five years of age on half-pay."

"If we can do that as a working-class organisation without the advice of the captains of industry, if we can run mines, factories, mills and docks from one end of the country to the other, and pay wages which on an average are from 30 to 50 per cent more than those of the other industries, if we can run the whole of our industry and pay trade union wages, even a colliery and pay the trade union rates, and make a success of it all, surely we are not asking a great deal when we suggest that a Government such as we have with all its power and influence, with its captains of industry, should do at least what we are doing in our working-class organisations."

—Rev. G. S. Woods, (Co-operative M.P. for Finsbury).

## MAKING GUNS TO SHOOT OUR MEN.

In evidence before the Royal Commission on the private manufacture of arms, Mr. S. F. Ferry (secretary, Co-operative Party) stated—

"In Bedford stands a gun with a brass plate recording its capture at Gas by the Bedfordians."

"Mothers still mourn sons who died to capture that gun. On the other side of the gun is stamped: 'Made by Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth & Co.'"

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THESE ARE THE IDEAL NUTRITIVE FOODS which have carried you through so many a hard day. They are full of strength and health food. First-class wheat is used in the production of this cereal. It has been carefully selected and prepared in the most hygienic manner. Shredded Wheat is a most important food for the young, the old, the infirm, and the invalid. It is a most valuable food for the sick, the convalescent, and the aged. It is a most valuable food for the young, the old, the infirm, and the invalid. It is a most valuable food for the sick, the convalescent, and the aged. It is a most valuable food for the young, the old, the infirm, and the invalid. It is a most valuable food for the sick, the convalescent, and the aged.

YOU GET MOST FOOD VALUE IN SHREDDED WHEAT

# BOARD OF EDUCATION CIRCULARS

## Nos. 1444 and 1445.

### ALDERMAN E. S. NICHOLSON'S COMMENTS.

The two Government Circulars 1444 and 1445 have set the educational world of a different lash, as they mean an almost complete reversal of the Government's 1931-35 policy.

Alderman Nicholson (deputy-chairman, Sheffield Education Committee), presiding at the January meeting, had a few cogent remarks to make as to the effects in Sheffield.

Below we print extracts from Alderman Nicholson's speech on that occasion.

ATTRACTION there are some directions in which the Board of Education have not gone far enough, the Sheffield Education Committee welcomes the Circulars 1444 and 1445, as they not only indicate a removal of the "economy barrier" which has been in our way since Circular 1413 was issued on September 17th, 1931, but encourage us to proceed with many developments in our educational system which we desire to undertake.

#### NURSERY SCHOOL AND CLASSES.

We are pleased to note that the board at last realise the value of nursery schools and nursery classes, seeing that they are now urging their establishment. As Sheffielders are aware, we have nursery schools at Broomhall Park and Densley-street, and nursery classes are held at the Hammetton Council School. In October, 1933, we also attempted, but without success, to secure the board's approval to the establishment of nursery classes at the Morley-street and Orver-lane Council Schools.

Accommodation for nursery classes has also been provided in the new schools at Hartley Brook and Woodthorpe, although at the moment they are being used for elementary school purposes by children over five. It is now our agreed policy to provide nursery classes in at least one of the schools to be erected on each of our new housing estates. Children are admitted to our nursery schools when they attain two years of age, but they cannot be admitted to nursery classes under the board's regulations before they are three years of age—this usually should be rectified.

#### LEAVING AGE.

The Government's present proposal to raise the leaving-age to fifteen with exemptions for beneficial employment is regrettable, not to say deplorable, and it is difficult to see what good effect it will have in Sheffield. It will be found from the minutes of the Education Committee in September last that of the 2,670 children who left school at midsummer, nearly 2,200 had secured employment, and that of the 1,471 who left in October, 1,200 had obtained work. We should all use our influence to try to secure a leaving-age of fifteen with no exemptions, and that assistance allowances be recognised for grant purposes should be provided to enable necessitous children to continue in attendance at school to that higher age. An adequately educated nation is the finest insurance for the welfare of the country. If we should not be successful in securing the withdrawal of the exemptions clause the board should be urged to issue rules and

regulations, and not place upon local fiscal employers the onus of defining "beneficial employment."

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

What we appreciate the Government's action in agreeing to allow 50 per cent. grant, as from January 1st last, instead of 20 per cent. on expenditure in respect of elementary school sites, buildings, equipment, and playing fields, and on alterations and extensions to existing elementary schools, to cope with the reorganisation, in the lines of the Hadow Report, it is to be regretted that the increased grant does not operate in respect of the new schools which were erected, or partly erected, during September 5th, 1931, when the previous 50 per cent. grant was withdrawn, and December 31st, 1935. During this period the Sheffield Educational Committee incurred a capital expenditure of £53,793 on elementary school sites and buildings, &c., the service of debt charges for which have only been allowed for 30 per cent. If 50 per cent. had been allowed on these schemes, the service of debt charges on £6,138 would have been saved to the city; such a relief would have been very helpful to us in connection with the many building schemes which we have to embark on during the next three years. We were only able to get £125,078 of our capital expenditure recognised for the previous 50 per cent. grant, which operated for a period of about two years. It is to be hoped that on this occasion the board will not fix a date for the withdrawal of the 50 per cent. grant until education committees have had a reasonable time in which to complete their schemes of reorganisation.

#### SPECIAL PLACES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

It is very gratifying to find that the board have now removed their general restrictions on the number of special places to secondary schools which may be awarded by local authorities. The board have possibly been impressed with the attitude of the Sheffield Education Committee on this question. It is a pity that they had not been a little more courageous and adopted this committee's agreed policy, viz. that no tuition fees should be payable in the secondary schools maintained by local authorities.

#### STATE SCHOLARSHIPS.

The provision of sixty additional State scholarships each year, making 360 in all, and of an increase in the maximum value of such scholarships, maximum value of such scholarships, will prove of real value to many necessitous pupils of outstanding merit who desire to proceed to the universities and to the Royal College of Arts.

#### TECHNICAL & ART EDUCATION.

With regard to the technical and Art education, we have already decided to provide a new College of Arts and Crafts, and improved accommodation for the College of Domestic Science; it must, however, be confessed that there is still need for us to do more in providing extended and more suitable accommodation for many branches of our technical work.

#### ADULT EDUCATION.

We have had in being for a period of nearly sixteen years an adult education Joint committee which has, among other things, realised the financial assistance in a small way to voluntary organisations in this city which have been undertaking valuable educational work for adults. We must recognise these adults who prefer to attend classes of this type rather than those attached to our evening schools.

#### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

This committee has always held a leading position in the country, so far as its school medical service is concerned. It has been our definite policy to increase the dental staff by degrees, and further increases will have to take place. The present proper situation of the teeth at the proper time has been at the root of many diseases. The need for improved and increased open-air school accommodation has

already received our attention, and we are looking forward to the time when we are able to occupy the Ash House Estate at Dove and erect thereon a new open-air school which will be worthy of the city. The board are now urging the necessity for dealing with rheumatic children before they suffer from heart disease. This is very pleasing in view of our recent decision to use Ash House for this purpose.

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

So far as physical education is concerned, Sheffield is again in the forefront. We have an organiser with a staff of four full-time assistant-organisers of physical training, who are doing valuable work for the benefit of education.

#### PLAYING FIELDS.

The question of the provision of suitable playing fields for our school-children has been engaging the attention of a special sub-committee since February, 1934, and to-day we have before us an interim report recommending the acquisition of four sites for this purpose.

From these observations on the board's activities, it will be observed that Sheffield appears to have anticipated most of the board's suggestions; or, if put in another way, the board have recently taken particular notice of many of the proposals which have been submitted to them by the Sheffield Education Committee.

### "NO COMPROMISE WITH THE AGGRESSOR."

#### Socialist International Calls For Full Sanctions Against Italy.

A JOINT meeting of the Bureau of the Labour and Socialist International and the executive of the International Federation of Trade Unions has unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the League of Nations to apply with their full force the sanctions provided for in the Covenant of the League against the crime committed by Italian Fascism against international law and elementary humanity. The resolution calls in particular for the immediate application of the embargo upon oil, cash, iron, and steel.

Noting with satisfaction that world public opinion is demanding with increasing vigour and success the application of sanctions and a solid organisation of collective security, the resolution calls upon all affiliated organisations to redouble their efforts, "as the vigilance and determination of the mass of the people are more necessary than ever for the establishment and consolidation of peace." After expressing solidarity with the young Italians who have been forced into the battalions and "all the victims of the bestial war, started by Italian Fascism, without distinction of colour or camp," the resolution condemns with deepest indignation the inhuman methods of Fascist barbarism, which vents itself in deliberate and murderous attacks upon hospitals and sick and wounded. Finally, the resolution declares that "no compromise with the aggressor, but only the strict application of international law and an exemplary retribut for the peacebreaker can deter other aggressors."

### OUR NOBLE FAMILIES.

NATHANIEL CURSON, Viscount Scarsdale, is a hard case.

Having had thirty-five motor cars in nineteen years he denies that he has been guilty of extravagance. He says: "I have a closed car for London and I always have an open one. Then I have a car for shooting, a car suitable for taking people to the district and a car for my domestic staff and a car for taking my children to parties."

And having collared so much of this world's good things you can bet your shirt that he has lordship belongs to that gentry company who wax wrothful at the thought of a P.A.C. applicant spending a few pence at the cinema.

### A NEW MONTHLY.

"THE CO-OPERATIVE REVIEW" the official journal of the Co-operative Union, commenced monthly publication in January, 1936. Hitherto, the "Review" was issued bi-monthly. Great changes have been made in character and contents. The articles will deal "in extenso" with the work of the Co-operative Union departments and auxiliaries. The "Review" in its new form covers a new field of co-operative journalism. Detailed information will appear dealing with the work of the Co-operative Union as a defensive and advisory body of British Co-operation. Responsible co-operators will, therefore, find this publication invaluable in keeping up-to-date with Co-operative Union work.

## SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE PARTY'S Seventh ANNUAL EXCURSION

### SATURDAY, 20th JUNE

To MARGATE, with motor-coach tour to CANTERBURY and along the Kent and Sussex coasts, including Folkestone, Hastings, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Brighton, Worthing, returning by coach to LONDON.

BREAKFAST, LUNCHEON, TEA, and SUPPER en route. INCLUSIVE COST: TRAIN FROM SHEFFIELD LEAVING FRIDAY NIGHT, RETURNING SUNDAY MORNING. **3/7/-**

Tickets must be booked not later than April 30th. Explaining circular on application to A. BALLARD, 17, Bank Street.

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It enables approved Members of the SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY to purchase CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES, &c., by means of SMALL WEEKLY INSTALMENTS.

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- ★ Approved Members are able to purchase in the departments covered by the scheme, exactly as though cash was being tendered, but they get twenty-four shillingsworth when only five 1/- weekly instalments have been paid.
- ★ The value returned on each share is 24/-. No poundage is charged. There are no Entrance Fees. More than one share may be applied for.
- ★ Trading Club purchases entitle members to life Usual Dividend—last half-year, 1/10 in the £.

The **NEW CLUB** commences

**MARCH 9th, 1936,**

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- ★ **Early Application for Shares is advisable—  
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COUPONS will be issued to members who have paid all necessary instalments due during weeks commencing March 30th and April 6th.

Application Cards are now obtainable at all Stores and the Registered Office.

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SHARES ARE 24/- EACH, and are paid for at the rate of 1/- PER WEEK PER SHARE.

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After the Fifth Weekly Instalment has been paid, COUPONS TO THE FULL VALUE of the shares taken up are issued for exchange in these Departments—

**DRAPERY** and allied sections, **BOOT AND SHOE, TAILORING—Bespoke and Ready-to-Wear, FURNISHING** (including Hardware, Crockery and Radio), and **DECORATING.**

- ★ Briefly, for each share you pay five weekly instalments of 1/- each, receive a coupon for 24/-, and pay the balance of 19/- in 19 subsequent weekly instalments —and nothing is charged for this privilege.

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