



MILK FOR SPAIN CAMPAIGN BUY YOUR 6d. TOKEN



The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party has taken steps to organise an intensive campaign of demonstrations and collections for a "Milk for Spain" Fund between now and Christmas.

A Spain Campaign Committee, responsible to the National Executive of the Labour Party, has been set up, and its members are: Sir Stafford Cripps, M.P., Mr. Joseph Henderson, M.P., Mr. Stanley Hirst, Mr. James Walker, M.P., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., with Mr. George Dallas, J.P., as chairman.

THE NEED IS DESPERATE.

The need of the people in democratic Spain is desperate. There are a million

people in Madrid, now facing its second winter of war, many of them sick and wounded.

Madrid's daily milk ration is down to 1,000 gallons. Nobody over four years of age gets any regular milk. Food is scarce all over democratic Spain. There are now 800,000 refugees in Catalonia alone.

The most urgent need is milk. The shortage of milk is universal throughout democratic Spain.

In a report published in "The Lancet" of October fifth, two doctors testified to this fact. They instanced one colony of 245 refugees (in which there were 135 children under 14) where there were only four tins of condensed milk a day.

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

The Co-operative Union is so impressed with the urgency of this need that it has agreed with the Labour

Party's Spain Campaign Committee on a simple method by which the machinery of 20,000 Co-operative stores throughout the country can be used as collecting agencies for the "Milk for Spain" Fund.

By this arrangement, any person—whether a member or a customer of the co-operative society or not—can purchase through any co-operative store "Milk for Spain" tokens to the value of 6d. each.

A separate token will be given for each 6d. subscribed. These sixpences will be sent to the Co-operative Union, and will be used, without any deduction, for the purchase at cost price of milk to be sent to democratic Spain.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY ACTION.

The Sheffield Co-operative Party, (Continued on page 2)

IN STRICKEN SPAIN



Llerda, once known as a city of peaceful beauty, is now made famous by Fascism for its death and smoking ruins.



Co-operative Union typists recruited to the aid of stricken Spain. They are here busy despatching tokens to co-operative societies.

HILLSBOROUGH DIVISIONAL CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

PUBLIC MEETINGS

FRIDAY, 10th DECEMBER *Both Meetings commence at 8 p.m.*

Woodside Council School **AND** Bole Hill Council School

(Chairman: Coun. F. W. R. STOKES) (Chairman: Coun. (Mrs.) H. MITCHELL)

Everybody Invited.

SPEAKERS:

Rt. Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

AND
Mr. ALFRED BARNES, M.P.
(NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, CO-OPERATIVE PARTY).



HUNGER AND WANT IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY

In the House of Commons on November 14th, Labour M.P.'s again drew attention to the existence of hunger and starvation in the midst of plenty. The matter was raised on a motion, moved by the W. Leonard, expressing concern at the evidence of widespread malnutrition, intensified by rising prices, and requesting the Government's failure to take effective steps to deal with this urgent problem.

Mr. Leonard quoted Sir John Orr and other authorities, and showed how some other countries had gone ahead of this country in safeguarding the health of children.

In Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, and Australia, for instance, the infant mortality rates ranged between 30 and 50 per 1,000, but in England it was 57 per 1,000, and in Scotland 82 per 1,000.

As further evidence of the effect of malnutrition, Mr. Leonard cited the fact that during the past three years 60 per cent. of the young men presenting themselves for enlistment in the fighting services were rejected as unfit, and the physical standard for army recruits had had to be reduced.

Quoting a recent statement by Lord Howler: "Look after the accessibility of food, and nutrition will look after itself," Mr. Leonard said the Government could do a great deal more than being done to increase the purchasing power of the people. The unemployed, old-age pensioners, and low-paid workers could not afford to buy the amount of food necessary for maintaining health and fitness. So long as there was hunger there could be no such thing as over-production.

MALNUTRITION MEANS SEMI-STARVATION.

Mr. George Griffiths, who seconded the motion in a speech which impressed the House by its home-truths based on personal experience, declared bluntly that to him "malnutrition," meant semi-starvation. As a lad in a family of ten, with a father working at the coal-face, and bringing home from 18s. 6d. to 24s.

a week, he had known what it was to go without milk every day except Sundays, when there was a drop in the pudding. He told the story of two boys in his constituency who met with slight accidents in the pits and died. At the inquest the doctor testified that the boys died because they were in a state of ill-health before the accidents.

Referring to and meet struggling along on inadequate compensation payments, Mr. Griffiths quoted the pathetic remark of an old lady in his constituency, "If I had another 2s. a week I should be as well as happy as a bird on a tree." "She was getting 10s. pension and 2s. 6d. poor relief." "And to think that we have people talking about the scientific way of spending money and the values of food!" he added.

THE TORY ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOCIAL SERVICES.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Mr. Berney) denied that there was an urgent problem of hunger in the country. Everybody could obtain "the minimum necessary for subsistence." He admitted, however, that it was necessary to increase the consumption of milk. The rest of the social services was a ecology of the social services.

This complacent attitude was effectively exposed by Mr. George Ridgely, who said the improvement in the people's standard of living was due to the growth of the trade union movement and the social services; but both those movements had been opposed by Tories in the initial stages. He instanced the bitter Tory opposition to the 1906 Act for feeding necessitous children. A leading Tory at that time declared that the Act would be a deliberate incentive to the workers to spend their money on drink.

Mr. Tom Johnston, winding up the debate, indicated the system which allowed hunger and want to exist in an age of plenty.

The Labour motion was defeated by 202 votes to 120.

CASE FOR SOCIALISM STATED IN PARLIAMENT

LABOUR'S POLICY ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL WELL-BEING

That case for Socialism was debated in the House of Commons on November 24th, following the debate on "Malnutrition." A Labour motion, moved by Mr. Joe Tinker, drew attention to the gross inequalities in the distribution of gross wealth and the failure of the capitalist system to guarantee a proper standard of life to vast numbers of the people. The life to vast numbers of the people. The life to vast numbers of the people. The life to vast numbers of the people. The life to vast numbers of the people.

Mr. Tinker pointed out bad housing conditions, low wages, insecurity, and the existence of nearly 5,000,000 unemployed in a time of boasted "prosperity."

He gave the figures of old-age pensioners having to apply for poor relief—214,901 in England and Wales, and 37,000 in Scotland.

While this state of affairs existed there were 100,000 people with incomes of over £2,000 a year, among them being 20,000 with incomes of over £2,000 a year. At the bottom of the scale were 11,000,000 people with incomes of less than £15 a year.

Dealing with low wages, Mr. Tinker mentioned that a demand was now being made on behalf of over 700,000 cotton weavers in Lancashire for a minimum of 81d. an hour, which meant 3s. for a forty-eight-hour week. He pointed out that in the report of Sir Frederick Piggott, that in the special case of 41 per cent. of the unemployed are men over forty-five years of age. That in itself was a condemnation of the present system. Only by the public ownership and control could the vast resources of the country be used for ensuring the well-being of the whole of the nation.

Mr. Cecil Wilson, seconding the motion, gave a telling illustration of the glaring contrast between the wealthy classes and those at the bottom of the scale. The total income of the 109,000 people in receipt of over £2,000 a year was £590,000,000, equal to £104 a week for each person. The unemployed man got 7s. a week. He challenged those who opposed the Labour motion to declare that that state of affairs was just.

THE CHOICE: PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OR PRIVATE MONOPOLY?

The opposition to the motion was summed up in a Tory amendment declaring that the standard of living of the people has improved under the present system, and opposing "undue interference which would deprive the State of the benefits of private enterprise." Well-to-do Tory M.P.'s defended capitalism and painted a picture of "prosperity" which bore no relation to the hard facts produced by Labour M.P.'s.

Mr. Lees-Smith, replying for the Labour Party, quoted Professor Henry Clay's estimate that 2 per cent. of the population take two-thirds of the capital of the country, leaving a third for the remaining 98 per cent. Among the 98 per cent. 15 per cent. did not leave less than £100. That, he said, was proof of Labour's argument about the inequalities in the distribution of wealth.

He reminded those who prised private enterprise and competition that week after week Parliament was discussing Government Bills to enable industry after industry to free itself from competition. The Coal Bill and the White Fish Bill were the latest instances. Last year a subsidy was given to shipping on the condition that it should not be worked by competition. The cotton industry was also asking to be allowed to eliminate competition. The report of the Import Duties Advisory Committee on the iron and steel trade

showed that this industry had completely insulated itself from competition.

The question is, said Mr. Lees-Smith, whether industry is to be recognized under public ownership and control, or under the control of self-interested groups of producers. The nation would never consent to give a private monopoly to great industries whose policy was the cost structure of other determined. It would declare that no national control could be effected under national control.

The Labour motion was defeated by a majority of thirty-six.

MILK FOR SPAIN

(Continued from page 1)

through its various sections, is also retaining the milk takers. Tolens may be obtained from the following:

- Mr. J. Worrall, 742, Prince of Wales-road.
- Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sicily-avenue.
- Mrs. Yelland, 139, Scott-road.
- Mr. and Mrs. Bottom, 2, Finton-street.
- Mr. W. Stephenson, 42, Finton-road.
- Mr. L. Baines, 142, Harvest-lane.
- Mrs. E. Watson, 125, Fowler-street.
- Mr. C. A. Holder, 84, Southey Hall-road.
- Mrs. H. Allen, 163, Everingham-road.
- Mrs. E. Williams, 8, Dart-square.
- Mr. A. Vainwright, 19, Dell-street.
- The Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank-street.

LICENSED.

"Morning, nurse!" said the park-keeper breezily.
 "Owner-driver," replied the lady with the pram, haughtily, as she continued her way.

THE "HAS-BEEN."

The teacher had asked the class to write a sentence containing the word "beans."
 "My father grows beans," said the bright boy of the class.
 "My mother cooks beans," said another pupil.
 Then a third popped up. "We are all human beans."

You can't do without it!

Once you have seen it, you must get it regularly.

Why?

Because it is the cheapest, the best illustrated, the most informing, the most entertaining collection of stories, articles, and poems published.

What?

"THE MILLOGATE," which costs sixpence and lasts the magazine at a whiling. Order it at your co-operative stores, bookseller, or railway bookstall.

A Force of Man's Own Making

Over seven million people are enjoying the benefits of Co-operative membership. They receive dividend on all the purchases they make, but more than that, they have the advantages of social and other facilities. You may ask "Have co-operators any responsibility for the privileges afforded?" Yes, they have! But their responsibility is in the control of the retail societies. In a large or small degree each co-operator has capital invested in his society, and thus becomes part owner of the shops and services of that society. The customers are the proprietors—so every member gets a share of the profits according to the amount of purchases.

But the Co-operative idea goes even further than that. The retail societies have organised their own manufacturing concerns—the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited. This organization was brought into existence seventy-five years ago, with the object of providing co-operative societies with the necessities of life for their members. To-day the C.W.S. has over 140 factories producing foodstuffs, clothing, furnishing, and footwear for co-operators. Thus, you will see it is to the advantage of every co-operator to buy C.W.S. productions.

CO-OPERATION IS A COMMONSENSE IDEA!



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

LOOK ON
THIS
PICTURE



CONTRAST



THEN
LOOK ON
THIS

NEW ZEALAND under LABOUR Rule Tastes of Leisure and PROSPERITY

BRITAIN under "NATIONAL" Government Finds that Everything is Getting DEARER

Huge success has attended New Zealand's Labour Government, elected early last year. Law after law has been passed, improving the conditions of life for the working-class people of the Dominion. At the same time trade has improved, unemployment has fallen, and the whole country finds itself in every way better off.

HERE are some of the things the New Zealand Labour Government has done to improve the conditions of the workpeople:—
It has increased wages and salaries, and passed a law prescribing a legal minimum wage.

It has established a nation-wide forty-hour working week of five days.
It has improved the payments made to unemployed workers; but at the same time, through a bold programme of public works (like that advocated by the Co-operative and Labour Parties in this country) it has diminished the total of unemployment.

INCREASING THE OLD-AGE PENSION.

It has extended the social services, notably by way of providing old-age pensions of 22s. 6d. a week for men at sixty-five and for women at sixty.

It has nationalised the central bank

(equivalent to the Bank of England in this country).

At the same time, it has established a State scheme for agriculture, which not only guarantees prices of farm products to farmers, but also provides firm workers with a legal minimum wage of 42s. 6d. a week plus an additional 27s. 6d. when full board and lodging are not provided.

Finally, the New Zealand Labour Government, to its lasting credit, has provided half-a-pint of milk daily to every child at school.

TORY FORECASTS PROVED WRONG.

Conservative newspapers in Britain greeted the advent of New Zealand's Labour Government with the usual howls about "impending ruin"; yet the fact remains that the Dominion's financial position is (in the words of "The Times" City Editor) "remarkable."

New Zealand is paying its way; yet, despite increased expenditure, there has been no increase in taxation. This is because the Dominion's increased prosperity under Labour rule means increased yield from the same taxation.

It just shows what a Labour Government can accomplish, provided it nationalises the banks and stands no nonsense from the landowning interests.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD'S NIGHT OF GAIETY MOCK CUTLERS' FEAST AT CITY STORES

THE Southey and Norwood Co-operative Party's Mock Cutlers' Feast, which had very modest beginnings in the Southey Guildroom a few years ago, has now blossomed out into almost as large an affair as the actual Feast at the Cutlers' Hall. On November 25th the large cafe at the Brightside and Carbrook City Stores was crowded with 420 "guests."

The "Retiring Master Cutler," "Sir Walter Scott" (of "Waverley" repute) led the occupants of the head table through the crowded cafe amidst great enthusiasm and thunderous applause. The "Master Cutler" was "Mr. I. Pecknib" (a Communist-British star). The principal guests were "Lord Mayor," Alderman F. Womers-

ley for Frank, the sworn enemy of "France"; "Right Hon. Boer-Belliba" (from Bank-street); "The Minister of Confinement"—the Earl of Dartmoor (who speaks with conviction); not Bill, who has preached his gospel in every street corner in Hillsborough; and the "Utter" who sounded like a foghorn, and had a strange resemblance to the secretary of the Southey and Norwood Co-operative Party.

The speeches gave one the impression that all had dined not wisely but too well. Mr. Hoiler (secretary), who acted as M.C. for dancing afterwards, is to be congratulated on the organisation of the whole affair which was a triumphant success from beginning to end.



Principal Guests at Mock Cutlers' Feast.

Up and up goes the cost of living in Great Britain. Even the Ministry of Labour, in its official figures, has to admit that prices are rising. The Ministry's cost-of-living index for October last was 158 (July, 1914=100); compared with 155 for September last and 148 for October last, 1936.

Food has got dearer in the past few weeks, notably eggs, milk, butter, and bacon.

It is bad enough for food to get dearer, but that is not all. Here are the results of an investigation into dealer living published in the "News Chronicle" on September 22nd last:—
A winter overcoat costs 20s. to fit more than it did a year ago; and a box of pins costs 1d. more.

Blankets that were 40s. a pair a year ago now cost 42s. Cheaper lands, then 14s. a pair, are now 21s. 6d.

See, too, how hardware costs more! The durability that cost you 4s. 6d. a year ago now costs you 6s. 9d. A garden spade, then 3s. 6d., is now 4s. 6d. Enamel saucepans, then 25s. the set, are now 29s. 6d.

Catalogues printed at the end of last year now have slips attached, giving the increase in wholesale prices during the year. One such slip, quoted by the "News Chronicle," refers to increases of 3 per cent. in wool mattresses, 10 per cent. in steel mattresses, and 25 per cent. in an iron bedstead.

POOREST FOLK HIT HARDEST.

It is not as though wages had risen to keep pace with the increased cost of living. Some trades have had increases, it is true; but in no case has the increase in wages kept pace with the rise in prices. And most workers have had no increase at all in their wage or salary.

As for old-age pensioners, the unemployed, and other poor persons in receipt of payments that are fixed in money, the price rise has hit them hardest of all.

Why are things dearer? There are several reasons, but in every case the responsibility is that of the so-called "National" Government.

ARTIFICIAL SCARCITY.

Ever since it took office, the so-called "National" Government has done all it could to bring about a planned scarcity, especially of foodstuffs. Dearer food is the direct result of the so-called "National" Government's

policy of tariffs, marketing boards' quotas, and so on.

Ministers called this "helping the farmer"—by getting higher prices for him. Yet these policies have by no means helped British agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture published recently figures which show that during 1936 no fewer than 32,600 farms workers lost their jobs; 278,000 acres of plough land were laid down to grass; 80,000 acres of agricultural land went out of cultivation altogether.

"But," added the Ministry's report, "there was a general improvement in the price-level of agricultural produce."

"When the old-age pensioner's food costs him more, the so-called "National" Government thinks that it is an "improvement."

GREEDY MEN RAISE PRICES.

Armaments profiteering is the latest cause of high prices. The demand for metals for the fighting services gives the metal merchants a chance to raise prices all round.

There is no real need for prices to rise. It is not as if metals were scarce, or all their extraction from the earth cost more than it used to cost. (In fact, it costs less, due to improved machinery.)

Profiteering simply means greed is having a clear run; and the so-called "National" Government has done nothing whatever to stop greedy men from forcing up prices.

True, Mr. Chamberlain, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced his "National Defence Contribution," which was a proposal to levy the increased profits of firms. This would not have prevented profiteering; but it would have taken some of the additional profits back into the Treasury.

Such, however, was the outcry from the profiteers and their kept newspapers, that Mr. Chamberlain abandoned the original N.D.C.; and his successor, Sir John Simon, introduced in its place another N.D.C. that is simply a hidden tax on things you buy, which means higher prices all round.

"NATIONALS" CAUSE DEARER LIVING.

Living costs you more than it did; and for that you have to thank the so-called "National" Government.

Prices will rise still higher, unless the so-called "National" Government is turned out of office.

CIVIL AVIATION A TORY M.P.'S ADMISSION

RECENTLY the House of Commons debated a Tory M.P.'s motion calling for an inquiry into the present situation of British civil aviation. The mover, Mr. W. R. D. Perkins, M.P. for Stroud, made a vigorous criticism of the air transport services, and declared that they were behind the American, German, and Dutch services. In the course of his indictment Mr. Perkins said:—

"I am as good a Conservative as any Member behind me, but I cannot help wondering whether nationalisation of our internal and external air services

would not be preferable to the present position."

Mr. Perkins alleged that the whole of British aviation was rapidly coming under the control of two financial houses; and that the Air Ministry was either unwilling or incapable of doing anything in the matter.

Speaking for the Labour Party, Mr. Fred Montague supported the demand for an inquiry, and said the speeches made during the debate had overwhelmingly proved the case for the nationalisation of civil aviation.

At the close of the debate the Under-Secretary for Air announced that a departmental inquiry would be set up to investigate the charges of inefficiency.

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council played a useful part in the recent election, and are showing the capital elections, and are showing the capital elections in a completely new way in every respect. This year there was no directly nominated Co-operative candidates, but the councillors returned were all members of the Brightside and Carbok Co-operative Society.

The general meeting for 1927 will be held in the council hall on Wednesday, December 14th, and will be followed by a social and dance. Co-operators will be invited to attend.

Secretary: Mr. J. Worrall, 742, Prince of Wales-road.

BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Divisional Council held a very good meeting on December 4th, when Councillor J. Cobley (member of the Council), presided, and the Board of management, Carbok and Carbok Society were the speakers.

The meeting was followed by the usual social.

Burngrave Women's Society meetings held every Wednesday at 2-30 p.m. in the Burngrave Community Hall, p.m. All women in the district are cordially invited.

Secretary: Mrs. E. Yelland, 139, Scott-road.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Divisional Council, which holds its meetings in the Co-operative Institute, Guildwood, Middlewood, held its December programme as follows: 2nd, "Free and Easy"; 9th, City Council report; 16th, Old-time dance (in the Institute), admission 6d., total proceeds for the Children's Treat Fund; 23rd, no meeting; 30th, the annual tea, social, and dance, inclusive admission 1s. 6d. Tea at 5-30 p.m. Social and dance only, 7 p.m. to 12 p.m., admission 2s.

The Women's Society, which meets on Monday afternoon in the large Institute, held a successful social on November 8th, which took the form of play-readings and dancing; 15th, Councillor R. Fisher spoke on "Morals Through the Ages"; 22nd, Mrs. C. Givan gave a film lecture entitled "Travel Through Spain"; 29th, Councillor J. Gill gave the monthly City Council report.

Programme for December: 6th, "American" tea and social (proceeds for Children's Christmas Treat Fund); 13th, Mrs. S. Lushcock will be the speaker; 20th, "Press Cuttings"; 27th, no meeting.

WISEWOOD.

The Wisewood Section of the Hillsborough Co-operative Party held an old-time dance on November 3rd; 10th, Councillor J. H. Bingham, J.P. (secretary, Brightside and Carbok Society), will be the speaker; 17th, Mr. E. A. Bradbury gave an address entitled "A Look into the Future"; and on the 24th, Mr. C. S. Davill spoke on "Labour's Short-Term Policy in Relation to Foreign Affairs".

Programme for December: 1st, smoking concert; 8th, City Council report; 15th, "Mock" Parliament; Mr. Speaker" takes the chair at 8 p.m. Everybody invited. 22nd, carnyval dance, 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. Admission 5d. There will be no meeting on the 29th. Meetings held in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road, Wednesdays at 7-15 p.m.

NEEPSEND.

Councillor F. W. R. Stokes gave the City Council report on November 10th. The members are busily engaged in raising funds for the annual old people's treat, a successful jumble sale having taken place, and a concert held at the Birley-street Mission Hall for this purpose.

The Women's Society, which meets on Monday afternoons in the Co-operative Institute, Manor-street, are hold-

ing a social on December 6th. Mrs. Wood will speak on her trip to Russia, 1918, after which the meetings will close until January 3rd, when the annual tea and social will be held. Tea at 5 p.m. Tickets, 1s., may be had from the secretary, Mrs. B. Watson, 125, Fowler-street.

SOUTHEY.

Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., addressed the Southey, New Wood, and Shirecliffe Section on November 21st. After giving facts of the splendid progress made in regard to slum clearance, Alderman Watkins gave details respecting the loan of £2,500,000 just floated by the Corporation. The meeting was impressed with the ability of the City's "Chancellor of the Exchequer." On November 18th, Alderman A. Smith's address, under the title of "Which Way?" dealt with the future of the National Government re quots and the rise in the cost of living. Restrictions were being placed on some time there of life, which is no longer a luxury but a special restricted output of armaments for the destruction of life. Nothing but an awakened working-class movement could stop this mad policy.

Weekly meetings in the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue, will continue until February. On December 16th, a special meeting is being arranged, inviting all electors to hear Councillor Fisher give a resume of his year of office in the City Council.

A visit to the pantomime is being arranged early in the New Year. Members wishing to accompany the party are asked to give in their names at once to the secretary, Mr. G. A. Holder, 84, Southey-avenue.

Meetings of the Women's Society held every Wednesday at 2-30 p.m. in the Institute. Secretary: Mrs. H. Allen. December programme: 15th, Billson's 8th, open date; 15th, Councillor J. H. Bingham, J.P., will speak. The meetings will close after this date and reopen on January 12th; 1928, with a "American" tea.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section held a business meeting on the 8th; 15th, Councillor J. Strindland was the speaker; 22nd, Councillor R. Fisher; and 29th, a whist drive. Programme for December: 6th, a business meeting; 13th, City Council report by Councillor W. E. Wise; 20th, speaker, Mr. E. Harwood; 27th, the usual whist drive.

Meetings held Mondays, at 7-30 p.m. in the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Institute, Paper-street.

The Women's Society, which hold meetings on Thursday afternoons, were entertained on November 4th with the Sheffield and Ecclesall Federation Play-readers; 11th, Mrs. C. Givan gave a cinematograph show, including pictures of co-operative outings and of delegates at various conferences; 18th, Mr. T. Gillinier gave an address on "The League of Nations Union"; especially dealing with the International Labour Office and its relation to the conditions of workers throughout the world. The League's successful efforts in preventing child labour were much appreciated, as also were the recommendations that workers should be granted holidays with pay; 25th, Mrs. C. Wrigley (member, City Education Committee) spoke on the subject of "Education in Sheffield".

December 2nd, Mrs. H. Cunningham, on "The Work of the Sheffield Women's Guild"; 9th, a whist drive; 16th and 23rd, no meetings.

Secretary: Mrs. E. Williams.

WOMEN'S NOTES
BY THE WOMAN WITH THE BASKET

CHRISTMAS

Christmas will soon be here, when, alas! gloomy winter visits supreme, with the earth is bare and desolate. We are all thankful that this autumn has been so pleasant; only once, six years ago, has the weather been fine for so long. There is nothing like a dry autumn for making the winter short. We can, of course, expect rain before Christmas, but don't let us grumble. Without it we should be in a very poor way. If we had the prolonged droughts and the serious floods like they have in America, life would be very unpleasant. Sometimes we may think that we haven't a climate thankful for, but an equable climate is a blessing, even though we may not always appreciate it.

The state of the weather in these isles is not only a dull topic for conversation, but is really a source for grumbling. I can never understand why. If the weather never varied, we should never be able to greet our friends with the remark, "Nasty day, isn't it?" Perhaps it will be better tomorrow. And how pleased we are when we can say, "Lovely day. Much nicer than yesterday." There is much to be said for variety, even if it's only in the weather. And how often has a discussion about the weather "broken the ice" when you have just been introduced to someone and you are wondering what to say?

Many of us think that the month of December is rather depressing; the leaves is usually a dull leaden hue; the leaves have fallen, leaving the trees bare and barren and all Nature seems asleep. We who live in cities have the prospect before us of cold, red streets, slushy roads, and biting winds from which we can find no quick escape. Have you ever thought that winter doesn't seem half so bad in the country as it does in the town? Even the

rain seems to fall more gently, the snow lies longer on the earth than on a city's paving stones, and it seems to melt slowly of its own accord rather than wash quickly into slush. You can watch the holly berries grow scarlet with the clear frost, and you discover more Christmas flowers, which at this time of the year are more at this time of the bright roses of previous summer. The Christmas rose or black hellebore, though it is an old-fashioned flower, has considerable beauty, and the Glastonbury thorn still hangs out its snowy clusters about this time.

Those of you who are "town birds" will, perhaps, not agree with these sentiments. December is the month for indoor pleasures, but there is something to be seen outdoors as well. When the air is sharp and clear, follow in a night's foot, take a Saturday or Sunday trip out into the country, have a good walk, and see for yourself what winter in the country isn't so dreary as you think. It'll wagner pleasantly than you and agree with me.

OLD CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS.

I often think it is rather a pity that so many of the old English customs are disappearing; we seem to be getting so sophisticated in our pleasures. Many people seek their amusement in the pleasures about the home, but I am still of the opinion that there is a lot to be said for the family gathering, when all the members meet for an "annual" reunion.

One ancient custom, which has now fallen into disuse, except in some country parts, is the ceremony of burning the Yule log on the twenty-fourth of December. The placing of a large block on the hearth was observed with great solemnity, and so hallowed was the log held that the unconsumed portion was carefully laid by, to be used at the next anniversary.

"December was styled "winter month," or winter month, by the ancient Saxons when they were still pagans. After their conversion to Christianity, they changed it to "Heigh month," or "holy month." The custom of decorating our churches at Christmas has a heathen origin. The mistletoe, the special badge of Christmas, was accounted dear to Odin, and possessed wondrous claims in mythology to the ancient Druids. It was the dearest treasure of the wood, and carried by a priest with a golden stick, and used in solemn procession upon a white ox. The holy also received its importance from the Druids, while the heathen tokens of Christmas—claims its use from the ancient Greeks.

I have deliberately kept off serious topics in this month's notes. Not that I am forgetting that we live in the midst of troublesome times, but because I am trying to be a little festive. And now may I, in all sincerity, wish you a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

M. D. S.

YOU WILL LIKE

"MYLYTA"
UNDERWEAR

Produced in a series of charming styles, at moderate prices

Manufactured by
the Makers of the
"ASHFIELD" BRAND
Hosiery and Underwear

The
Kirby-in-Ashfield Co-operative
Manufacturers Limited,
Byron Street, East Kirby,
Notts.

SHREDDED WHEAT

Leads Britain's
Health Parade



THE FOOD FOR GENERAL FITNESS

S. AND E. SOCIETY

REPORTS 'SUBSTANTIALLY MAINTAINED PROGRESS'

The society's 255th quarterly report, just published, containing details of the results of the trading operations for the period ended October 30th, reveals substantially maintained progress.

Sales for the thirteen weeks amounted to £374,968, an increase of £34,740 over the corresponding period of a year ago, or more than £2,000 per week.

The new annual business figure of £7,441,417 is, in turn, an increase over the previous year of £131,772, equal to 10.6 per cent.

An influx of new members averaging more than 120 per week (1,593 for the quarter) has given the society a membership of 55,595.

is striking testimony to the popularity accorded to this simple saving method.

DEATH BENEFITS.

The sum of £1,126 paid during the quarter in respect of over 200 deaths, presented under the society's death benefit scheme, has brought the total of benefits paid to £65,939, and the number of claims to 11,965.

This particular benefit of membership, covering both husband and wife, is one which is always fully appreciated. There are no formalities, trading membership being all that is required to secure the benefits.

DAIRY DEPARTMENT.

Sales of pasteurized milk for the quarter totalled 439,824 gallons, making an output for the year of 1,659,531 gallons, which is 194,669 gallons more than a year ago.

This annual sales figure is equivalent to over 13,250,000 pint bottles.

ALTERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS.

The extensions fronting the Cemetery-side site of the "Arcade" are not proceeding as speedily as anticipated owing to difficulties in obtaining the necessary steelwork, but it is hoped to make more rapid progress when delivery is eventually effected.

The alterations to Wadswley-road and Drenfield Stores and the erection of the new branch at the corner of Gleadless and Ridgeway roads are well in hand, and it should not be very long before an announcement regarding their completion will be made.

HEARD IN THE HOUSE

'NATIONAL' GOVERNMENT NOT PAYING INTEREST ON WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES FARMERS 'ON THE DOLE'

In view of the campaign against the Labour Government in 1936 on the grounds that they had used Post Office savings, the following question and answer in the House of Commons on October 28th, is extremely interesting:

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES (UNPAID INTEREST).

Mr. Alexander asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the total of the dead-weight debt shown in the annual accounts includes the accrued but unpaid interest savings certificates amounting to £12,000,000?

Sir J. Simon: No, Sir, but the figure stated, which is an approximate estimate, is shown in the Finance Accounts, page 68.

Mr. Alexander asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether in future Budgets proper provision will be made for the annual charge of approximately £7,000,000 on account of accrued but unpaid interest on savings certificates?

Sir J. Simon: I am afraid I am unable to anticipate future Budget statements.

AGRICULTURE.

State Subsidies and Assistance.

On November 17th, Mr. Chater asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury what was the total amount of assistance given to the agricultural industry in Great Britain in the last three years for which figures are available under the following heads: Rating relief, wheat subsidy, beet sugar subsidy and rebate, cattle subsidy, and milk subsidy?

Lieutenant-Colonel Colville: The amount for the three financial years 1934, 1935, and 1936 is as follows:—

	1935.	1936.	1937.
Wheat Subsidy Payments	6,787,504	5,611,275	5,678,812
Beet Sugar Subsidy	4,110,881	7,282,578	2,986,938
Beet Sugar Rebate of Production	2,882,000	2,860,000	2,877,000
Cattle (Payments to Processors)	12,800,012	1,397,000	2,297,000
Milk (Payments to Milk Marketing Boards)	5,233,000	7,173,454	931,358
	17,213,497	15,869,702	25,669,710

* These amounts were paid out of the Wheat Fund under the Wheat Act, 1931. The periods covered are the fiscal years ended July 31st, 1935, 1936, and 1937.

† Seven Months.

It is not possible to express in terms of money the benefit which agriculture has derived from denrating during these years. The amount of the grant in the budget in respect of the year 1938-39 on the basis of benefit to agriculture in that year totalled approximately £10,800,000.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS

(Damages for Negligence).

On November 21st, Mr. Alexander asked the President of the Board of Trade whether it is proposed to introduce amending legislation, as a result of the decision of the courts that motor accident claims may include damages to cover the loss of expectation of life; and, if so, whether it is proposed to limit the same principle in respect of claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Attorney-General: I have been asked to reply. The effect of the legislation introduced as a result of the recommendations of the Law Revision Committee is kept constantly under review by my Noble Friend the Lord Chancellor with a view to seeing whether in due course amendment of the law as passed by Parliament is required. The decision referred to will fall to be considered in this connection. The last part of the question does not therefore arise, but I might point out that the principle of the Workmen's Compensation Act is not based on the right to recover damages for negligence.

BUTTER (PRICES).

On November 23d, Mr. Anderson asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the

current price in Manchester of Danish butter is 3s. 6d. per pound, as against 2s. 3d. per pound in November 2nd, 1936, and that Empire butter to-day is 3s. 6d. per pound, as against 2s. per pound on November 2nd, 1936; and whether he intends to do up to the increased charges that act so detrimentally on the purchasing power of working-class households?

Mr. Stanley: The recent increase in the price of butter is due to increased demand at a time when supplies from several sources, for instance, from Australia, the Irish Free State, and certain European countries, have been from one cause or another, rather smaller than usual. These causes are not within the control of the Government.

BOOTS AND SHOES (PRICES).

On November 16th, Mr. R. C. Morrison asked the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the continued increase in the price of boots and shoes, and in certain European countries, have been from one cause or another, rather smaller than usual. These causes are not within the control of the Government.

Mr. Stanley: I know that boot and shoe prices have risen within the last eighteen months. I understand that this increase follows increases in wage costs, and also the use of more expensive materials, and is not due to any material extent to the import duty on foreign dressed leather. Any question of revising that duty is for the Import Duties Advisory Committee in the first place.

MILK PRICES.

On November 11th, Mr. Leach asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he

	1935.	1936.	1937.
Wheat Subsidy Payments	6,787,504	5,611,275	5,678,812
Beet Sugar Subsidy	4,110,881	7,282,578	2,986,938
Beet Sugar Rebate of Production	2,882,000	2,860,000	2,877,000
Cattle (Payments to Processors)	12,800,012	1,397,000	2,297,000
Milk (Payments to Milk Marketing Boards)	5,233,000	7,173,454	931,358
	17,213,497	15,869,702	25,669,710

* These amounts were paid out of the Wheat Fund under the Wheat Act, 1931. The periods covered are the fiscal years ended July 31st, 1935, 1936, and 1937.

† Seven Months.

It is not possible to express in terms of money the benefit which agriculture has derived from denrating during these years. The amount of the grant in the budget in respect of the year 1938-39 on the basis of benefit to agriculture in that year totalled approximately £10,800,000.

will take action with a view to reducing the present unnecessarily high retail price of milk?

Mr. Morrison: The Consumers' Committee for England, which was appointed, in pursuance of Section 9 of the Agricultural Marketing Act, 1931, is charged with the duty of considering and reporting to me on the effect of the marketing schemes on consumers. I understand that the committee have under consideration the minimum retail prices of milk now ruling.

UNDER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

"THERE are 4,500,000 people who can spend no more than 4s. a week on food. Their diet is deficient in every constituent."—SIR JOHN OAK.

"Science has enabled us to achieve against the miracle of the leaves and fishes, but the leaves and fishes are not being given to the multitude."—SIR F. GOWLAND HOPKINS.

STUMPED.

The genius of a local man had carried him to big success in business without much aid of education. He was asked to distribute the prizes at a school, and made the usual speech of good counsel. "Now, boys," he said, "always remember that education is a great thing. There's nothing like education. Take another look through education we learn that twice two makes four, that twice six makes twelve, that seven sevens make—no—and then there's geography!"

13M 13M

"INTEGRITY"

BRAND

For your health's sake wear Pure Wool Underwear. "13M" FASHIONED TO FIT THE FIGURE. Whether you are tall or short, stout or thin, there's a garment in stock at your service for you, and it's GUARANTEED UNSHINKABLE. Made by the Wigmore Co-operative Tailors Limited. —Paddock Street, Wigmore.

VESTS AND PANTS

COMFORTABLE and DURABLE

13M 13M

THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE DRAMATIC SOCIETY will present

"ROBERT OWEN"

A DRAMATIC BIOGRAPHY

By J. R. Gregson

HOW? WHERE? WHEN?

WHO ARE THE SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE DRAMATIC SOCIETY?

ANNOUNCE—

1. The Education Committee of two Sheffield Societies have undertaken responsibility for the Production, with Mr. J. R. Gregson, Author, as Producer.
2. Montgomery Hall, Sheffield.
3. March 14th to 15th, 1938.
4. YOU and I, if you are willing to help forward the Co-operative Movement, and are interested in Dramatic Art.

AN ADDITION will be held on December 13th to close out. If you have not already received an invitation, write your Educational Secretary, for full particulars.



**HELP YOU
CHOOSE
THAT GIFT**

★ ★ ★ **SMART AND NOVEL—
YET USEFUL and most
reasonably priced**

You'll find it a pleasure to do all your Gift shopping at "The Arcade" this year—in every department suggestions abound. Let us guide your choice for each and everyone on your list.

—It's better to shop **EARLY!**

**OUR XMAS
GIFT CATALOGUE**

Check full of suggestions in
yours for the asking if you
have not already received a
copy.
QUITE FREE.

★ Visit the
PHILATELIC DEPT.
STAMPS—ALBUMS—GUIDES
CATALOGUES and ACCESSORIES
IN GREAT VARIETY.

CHRISTMAS FARE

SEE THE FINE
DISPLAYS IN THE
BUTCHERY Depts.

Prime English and Imported
Meat and delicious
Cooked Meats and
Specialities from our
own Factory.

For all the Good Things Christmas
can bring, the finest are obtainable at
each of our

45 GROCERY STORES

Fresh Daily Supplies of Festive Cakes
and Pastries from our own BAKERY.

**FRESH FRUITS &
VEGETABLES,
NUTS, &c.**

Turkeys - Geese - Poultry
AT MARKET PRICES.



ORDER EARLY!

PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR OUR DELICIOUS PORK PIES. Any Weight.

**"The Arcade"
Great Christmas Attraction**

The kiddies will be thrilled by the exciting
journey—

**UP THE CHIMNEY WITH
FATHER CHRISTMAS TO
THE "ROOF OF THE WORLD."**

Surprise after surprise . . . and Father
Christmas himself will hand each boy and
girl a bumper Gift Parcel.

Gift Tickets, 6d. each.

Dividend 1/10 in the £

Everyone should Visit the . . .
ORIENTAL TOY FAIR

All decked out with a most fascinating array
of TOYS and GAMES and the thousand
things that children love.

ADMISSION FREE.

Sheffield
and
Ecclesall

**CO-OPERATIVE
SOCIETY LIMITED**

"The Arcade,"—**"THE CHRISTMAS STORE."**
Ecclesall Road and Branches.

**NEW CANDIDATE FOR
HILLSBOROUGH**
A "HOPPING TOMMY"
CAREER

So Hillsborough, for the first time, is
to have a "National" Liberal candidate.
Mr. Gurney Braithwaite has given up his
seat as hopeless from the Tory point of
view, and we understand a new Hills-
borough "National" Liberal Associa-
tion is to be formed for the Tories to join
in order to support Dr. W. S. Russell
Thomas, the new Hillsborough
candidate.

We learn that Dr. Thomas first came
to prominence in national politics in
1931, when he was chosen as Liberal
candidate in East Ham North, and
withdrew in favour of the Conservative
nominee, proceeding to Ilford where he
fought as a "National" Liberal. In the
1935 General Election he reverted back
and ran as a Liberal candidate for
Central Aberdeenshire.

He made a further effort as a Liberal
at Ross and Cromarty by-election last
year, when he finished at the bottom of
the poll with 738 votes out of a total
poll of over 18,000. In 1936 Dr. Thomas
definitely joined the "National" Liberal
Party.

He has, therefore, tried the Liberal
ticket and failed; tried the "National"
Liberal ticket and failed; tried the
Liberal ticket once more, and his mar-
tained the place of a Tory in the hope
that with their assistance he will at last
reach Westminster.

We would not like Dr. Thomas to
object to being dubbed a Tory in view
of the following resolution: "The
Hillsborough Conservative Association
pledges itself loyally to support Mr.
Russell Thomas, and do all in its power
to secure his return."

In adding him to the list of candidates
who have tried to displace Mr. Alexander
we recall that he is the eighth of the
series, and apparently, the sixth Tory,
for the two former Liberal candidates
had at least the courage of their con-
victions and fought as Liberals without
associating with the Conservative Party.
Dr. Thomas may not have deep-rooted
political convictions, but evidently he
has plenty of courage, and we are de-
lighted to welcome him into the fray;
in fact, we are looking forward to a
very happy time!

"OUR CIRCLE"

MONTHLY - ONE PENNY

A Clean and Popular Magazine
for Young Folk. Full of
Stories, Pictures, & Competitions

Published by the Co-operative Press Ltd.
21, Long Millgate, Manchester, 2.

FOOTWEAR

FOR GENTS AND BOYS

**Holyoake
: Brand :**

IS THE MOST RELIABLE

TRADE UNION STAMP NO. 8

Can be purchased from any
Co-operative Boot Department
in Sheffield.

□

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY THE
KETTERING
CO-OPERATIVE
BOOT SOCIETY

HAYLOCK WORKS, KETTERING.

FOOD COUNCIL PRAISES CO-OP.

In a report which advocates rationalisation of the milk industry, the Food Council records the "general feeling that milk distribution under present conditions is wasteful and unnecessarily costly" and shows that co-operative societies both in London and the provinces distribute milk at much lower cost than the private trader.

The report shows that the costs of firms engaged in milk distribution vary between 5½d. to 2½d. per gallon of milk sold, although in the bulk of the cases the costs are somewhere between 7½d. and 1½d. It is estimated that the cost of the London Co-operative Society are slightly under 9½d. per gallon as compared with 10½d. per gallon for the United Dairies, and that the costs of eight provincial co-operative societies in respect of pasteurised milk ranged from 5½d. to 9½d. per gallon as compared with costs of from 9½d. to 12½d. per gallon for proprietary concerns.

The report comments that the co-operative societies could have earned a reasonable rate of return on their margins than those actually in force in their respective districts. Commenting on the findings of the Council, Mr. A. V. Alexander states:

"The report of the Food Council is perhaps the most effective condemnation of the result of private competition in a system of private enterprise that has been published of late years." Referring to the inference in the summary of the report that the private traders' margin of profit was not excessive, whereas the co-operative societies were in a special position, he pointed out that this was a most unfair presentation of the case.

The societies have to pay the same price as private traders for their milk, and are not allowed to sell it at a lower price. Therefore, the increased surplus they achieve must be due to efficiency.

He also pointed out that the co-operative profit belongs to the customer-member, and that in a great many cases co-operative societies have called meetings of the trade to secure agreement to reduce prices, but have failed to get the support of private traders.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CONDEMNED.

The report comments: "It is evident that the overlapping which is inherent in the retail milk distributive industry is responsible for much duplication of effort and, in consequence, of much expenditure that is uneconomic."

"Two things are specially desirable from the point of view of reducing working costs and, in consequence, lowering the retail price of milk—first, a reduction in the number of distributors; and second, a rearrangement of trade as between one distributor and another."

The Council states that an obvious method of effecting some reduction in distributive margins would be to free retailers from price control, whilst an alternative method would be to make operative some reduction in the minimum distributive charges. But, "far more important reductions could be brought about by measures designed to effect some rationalisation of the industry."

The economies which would result from rationalisation would include savings through concentration of processing and distributing depots; savings through concentration of rounds; savings through a reduction of the number of shops in various areas; decreased costs incidental to book debts and their collection; reduction in expenses of advertising; and economies resulting from possible simplification of services.

Thus, the Labour Party's charge, that the basic cause of high milk prices is the Government's failure to tackle the problem of rationalising milk distribution, has received expert support.

AN ILL-ADVISED VISIT LORD HALIFAX PLEADS WITH HITLER

THAT has seldom been a more ill-adviced visit than that of Lord Halifax to Hitler. Invited to view a bustling exhibition, he chose to "explore" the dark places of Nazi foreign policy. What that policy is has been evident to people with the slightest knowledge of Nazi mentality and the speeches and writings of Hitler himself. It is not the unaided business of British statesmen to run to Herr Hitler, who had refused to answer an official communication of vital importance, begging him to make himself clear where he had chosen not to do so. Still less is it his business to go visiting to Herr Hitler in Munich and the memorial to Nazis who were killed in the abortive "putsch" of 1933.

The only thing that this country itself can give Hitler to console, and this is precisely where our Government and its least inclined to make concessions. Any conversations between this country and Germany are bound to arouse the suspicion that we are bargaining away the interests and safety of other nations. Despite official denials, the main outline of Hitler's demands is clear: to a land in Eastern Europe, in return to Europe for a temporary abatement of the colonial campaign, Great Britain to bring pressure on States in Eastern and Central Europe to submit to Hitler's demands.

None but the wilfully blind could imagine that this country or France would be safe, once Nazi Germany has absorbed certain territories in Eastern Europe and gained political control

over others. If Eastern Europe is to come under German sway, it can submit to the will of Adolf Hitler without the help of Great Britain. Any attempt by this country to give Hitler a free hand in the East might well lead to an agreement by East European States to give Hitler a free hand in the West.

In any case, whether colonial claims came first or the conversations, as is now suggested in the British Press, or whether claims in Eastern Europe are of paramount importance, as the continued emphasis laid on them in the German Press would imply, no concessions to Germany's present rulers in the colonial field can buy European peace, nor will concessions in Europe, under whatever guise they are given, be a safeguard against colonial ambitions, the aim of which is military rather than economic.

Lord Halifax's journey was described before he left as purely private and unofficial. Sir John Simon made a statement to this effect in the House of Commons, a statement which was either a trick or a disavowal. Any demands made by Hitler to Lord Halifax, in his private and unofficial capacity, should not be accorded official acknowledgment or recognition by the British Government. Hence, this visit, which was not undertaken with the goodwill of the colleagues of Lord Halifax, has at once become a new centre of disturbance in a Europe already suffering from almost uncounted excursions. It may even be a starting point for unforeseen official negotiations. Lord Halifax has made a diplomatic "coup d'état."

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

GOVERNMENT AGAIN OPPOSES LABOUR'S AMENDING BILL

EIGHTEEN months ago the Labour Party introduced a Workmen's Compensation Bill the purpose of which was to improve some of the anomalies of the present Acts and to secure adequate compensation for the victims of industrial accidents. The Government opposed the Bill on the alleged grounds that it was "too complicated," and would make a "revolutionary" change in the principle on which compensation is based. That Bill was defeated.

On November 19th Mr. Jack Jones moved the second reading of a Workmen's Compensation Bill which he slightly described as a modest measure. The main amendments of the present law proposed in the Bill were as follows:

Under the present law the total payable to a widow with dependent children cannot exceed £500. In 1920 the Holman Gregory Commission recommended a maximum of £600. The Bill proposed to abolish lump-sum payments and substitute weekly payments to a widow of 30s., or one-third of the weekly earnings of the deceased workman, whichever is the greater, and 20s. for each child up to the age of sixteen.

For total incapacity the present sum payable is 50 per cent. of the weekly earnings. The Bill proposed 75 per cent., with a minimum of £3 a week unless the normal earnings prior to the accident were less than that sum. For partial incapacity the Bill proposed that instead of 50 per cent. of the difference between the pre-accident and post-accident wages the injured worker should receive the whole of the difference.

The present test for determining the weekly earnings is the average weekly earnings during the twelve months prior to the accident. This often works unfairly against injured persons owing to short-time working during the twelve months.

The Bill proposed to make the basis the normal earnings of the worker at his regular trade.

Under the present law, in case of dispute, the matter is submitted to a

medical referee. The Bill proposed a Medical Board of three doctors. In order to prevent the hardship resulting from employment of a medical referee to meet their liabilities under the Acts, the Bill proposed compulsory insurance for every employer.

TORIES TELL THE SAME OLD STORY.

The case for these reforms was ably stated by Mr. Jack Jones, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and other Labour M.P.s. A Tory amendment was moved which admitted that some of the provisions of the present compensation law call for review, but opposed the second reading of the Bill on the ground that its proposals were "complex and far-reaching," and "would throw on industry a heavy burden, the extent and effect of which had not been investigated."

Supporters of the amendment told the same old story that has always been used, "that the present proposals are changes which benefit the workers. Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd (Under-Secretary for the Home Office) urged Government supporters to vote for the amendment. He quoted the Government Actuary's estimate that the Bill would cost at least £9,000,000. He mentioned that two committees set up by the Home Office were investigating the questions of Workmen's Compensation, and that when they reported, the Government would introduce legislation if it accepted the Committee's recommendations.

In a vigorous reply, Mr. Tom Williams refused to accept the Government Actuary's estimate. He estimated that the Bill would not cost more than £8,000,000 a year, and that worked out at about 20s. a year for each employer. Was that too much to ask in order to give justice to injured workers? he asked.

The supporters of the Government answered this question by defeating the second reading of the Bill by 205 votes to 141.

HIRE-PURCHASE SCANDAL STOP THIS RAMP

On every 1,000 consumers who contract to buy goods on the hire purchase system from reputable dealers, 995 are honest. Public utility companies sell six refrigerators by instalments for every one they sell outright. Few purchasers default. Hauling firms had as much as 95 per cent. of their market in the hire purchase field. For them the risks of credit sales are no greater than the hazards of cash trading. The co-operative movement has developed its own methods of enabling its members to buy on credit on the same terms and with the same certainty of getting value for money as its customers. Bad debts arising from co-operative "mutuality" are infinitesimal. British consumers are honest traders.

What, then, is the source of the many evils in hire purchase which Miss Ellen Wilkinson's forthcoming Bill seeks to eradicate?

This source is those firms interested only in obtaining the hire purchase system for excessive private gain. They strive to induce the consumer to mortgage his future earnings in order to satisfy a present need for luxury goods which, normally, an impoverished mass market cannot absorb; and they pursue their campaign regardless of the suffering inflicted on the individual by debt and on the community by social and economic maladjustments. They force business under agreements which, being incomprehensible to the ordinary man, are not less dangerous than the sale of food under false and misleading labels. Much of their trade is in mass produced shoddy financed by money-lenders. This shoddy is not intended for sale in the ordinary meaning of the word. It is intended for temporary hire. It is seized immediately the victim, who imagines he has bought it, fails to maintain his repayments, and is transferred temporarily to the care of another victim, the costs of collection and renovation of, course, being added to the repayment charges falling upon the first, second, and successive purchasers.

However legal these activities may be, such firms are not legitimate traders. They add little to national production and nothing to national wealth. They provide no services which the community must expect to pay. They are mere rack-renters.

Miss Wilkinson's Bill will restrict their plunder. It gives the purchaser some warranty that the goods he buys on hire purchase are of a quality commensurate with the price he pays. It gives him some rights of possession or on failing to maintain repayments, he can satisfy a court of law that he is not a willing defaulter.

Whether applied to the sale of gas cookers or country cottages, hire purchase raises vital issues both for the individual and society. It is doubtful if even the elimination of mass poverty would eliminate entirely what has become a national habit. Hire purchase, clearly, is a proper subject for State regulation and control.—From "Keystone News."

Proved by Merit

to be worthy
of the name.

"THE IDEAL"

Ladies!
Tailor-made Costumes,
Gentlemen's High-class
Bespoke Tailoring,
Boys' Suits,
Hats and Caps.

CAN BE OBTAINED AT YOUR
STORES.

The Ideal Colliers Limited
Works - - - - - Walsborough

Christmas Cheer

**IN THE GREATEST VARIETY OF
CHOICE AT ALL OUR BRANCHES**

Packed with Seasonable Fare, both the City Stores and our various branches breathe the spirit of Christmas. They are filled with good things, from plum puddings to every kind of present you could

wish to give. At the City Stores there is the Toy Bazaar—a really astonishing display—and trips to “Gnomeland.” Don't let the kiddies miss this—for it is thrill after thrill.

SHOP EARLY—AND AT THE B.&C.

● LAST HALF-YEAR'S DIVIDEND WAS 1/9 IN THE £1

BRIGHTSIDE & CARBROOK
CO-OPERATIVE STORE LTD. CITY STORES - EXCHANGE STREET & BRANCHES