



BACK OF THE LEAGUE MR. ALEXANDER POINTS THE WAY TO PERMANENT PEACE

Mr. Alexander wound up the debate on Foreign Policy for the Opposition on March 14th in the House of Commons. After a few introductory remarks which he had expressed the willingness of the Opposition to assist in the crisis so long as the attitude was for constructive Peace purposes. Mr. Alexander said:

"I hope the Prime Minister will forgive me if I mention here and there a point in which I think we might have saved some of the difficulties that we now have to face in our constructive efforts for peace.

"The party for which I speak to-night has never wavered since 1918 in its two-fold plea, first, that you should be fair to the victims of defeat in the last war, and should arrange as soon as you possibly could for the economic uppeachment of the peoples of the nations who were said to be defeated; and, secondly, that, as soon as the Government of the League of Nations had been drafted, assented to and signed by those States who joined the League, the Government of the League should be used to the full.

"At this moment, when we are asked for constructive effort, we have to say to the Prime Minister, not with any feeling of bitterness or hostility, but looking the present crisis in the face, that if the Government had followed with sincere devotion the whole-hearted support of the League of Nations which we have advocated, in the last two years that they have been in office, even if not before, we should not be facing the crisis that we are facing to-day.

Government's Policy of Drift.

"I want the House to realise from a very brief sketch the causal connection between the different events which have marked, during the National Government's two periods of office, the retreat from principle in support of the League. From the moment when we failed to take effective action in support of the League Covenant over Manchuria, the stage was set for the next piece of drift. (Interruption.) I have not interrupted anybody, except to ask one straight question of the hon. and gallant Member who talked about constructive effort, and I hope that in the very short time I have—I want to give adequate time for the Government representative to reply—I shall be

allowed to finish my speech. That particular draft led at once, according to those who have had experience in the inner conversations at Geneva, to the incident in connection with the Chaco war. It was immediately said, even by sincere supporters of the Covenant of the League at the Geneva meeting, how could they prevent the export of arms to Paraguay and the other side if no action was being taken with regard to Japan in Manchuria? You had the immediate reperession of the failure to act in the case of the Chaco dispute, on top of the Manchurian dispute, when you came to the Abyssinian situation. Mussolini expressed his surprise and horror that the principal Powers of the League should dream of taking a policy of opposition to his aggression in Abyssinia, of imposing sanctions and, if necessary, enforcing them, against him by military strength; because, he said, the League had never dreamed of doing that in the case of Japan; it had not even done so in the case of the China war, and how dare they suggest doing it against him in the case of Abyssinia?

We come to the case, which the Labour party has always put to the Government as being just as justifiable on League principles as any of the others—the case of Spain, which ought to have been treated by the League, within a very short time of the outbreak of hostilities, as a case of invasion by an aggressor. Everybody knows that Mussolini was saying openly that if the Governments who were the principal leaders in the League could have nothing effective to say or do with regard to the completion of the policy of sanctions in Abyssinia, it would be quite safe for him to ignore his pledges under the Non-Intervention Agreement and to go on with his plans for making Spain the Western stronghold of Italy for the purpose of making the Mediterranean an Italian lake. That is the cause of the situation we are in to-day, in which Member after Member on that side has to get up and appeal to Members on this side for their support."

Change of Outlook Needed.

After pointing out that all the Government failures were due to the disloyalty to the League, Mr. Alexander said:

"What I want to say to the Prime Minister is, will not consider not

merely reviewing the defence basis, but considering at once, and giving a clear statement about it as soon as he has made up his mind with his Cabinet, an entire change in the outlook from that which he showed when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Warwick and Leamington (Mr. Eden) resigned? It is perfectly clear that, whether they were mistaken or not, the Government were sincere in their point of view that they thought the opportunity had arisen for negotiation which would separate Mussolini from Hitler. (The Prime Minister indicated dissent.) I am quite sure the Prime Minister never said that in words; but I am sure also that there is not a student of foreign affairs in this country who has not believed that that was the policy of the Government in recent times. We uttered the warning that, judging from statements made by Herr Hitler, he was speaking a few weeks ago, it was unlikely that such a result would be achieved. We have also seen that Signor Mussolini was as much pledged as anyone to safeguard the independence and integrity of Austria. When we see that, we realise that the Leader of the Opposition was correct when he said that the structure of cards that the Prime Minister had created was knocked down.

"Will not the Prime Minister see that, on this great issue of trying to secure peace, coupled with the freedom and liberty which our fellow-countrymen have died so often in the past to retain, he would stand a better chance of securing national unity behind that policy if his Cabinet would at once summon the council of the League, and put it to them, with all the force of leadership that a British Prime Minister can exercise if he will, that every peace-loving nation left in the League should gather together not only in passing resolutions with regard to the maintenance of peace against the aggressor, but to pool now their economic, military, naval, and air strength. There is no other way, in my judgment, of preventing the next movement by the dictator in Europe against the peace and liberty of other States in Europe.

"While a great many things have been said with regard to the danger of Czechoslovakia and all that that involves to the future peace and freedom of Central Europe, I agree with others

who have pointed out that it is just as likely that the more immediate effect of the events of this last week-end will be still further pressure for completing, as they hope, the conquest of the people's Government in Spain. I should hope that at this time His Majesty's Government will be prepared to put in the League the question of collective action in order to prevent a Fascist State being established with the support of Italy and Germany, who would thereafter be able to call the tune in that country in regard to the conflict with those aggressors in the future as between themselves and the League policy.

Labour Offers Support.

"May I put it from this point of view? The National Government for over two years have had the continuous opportunity of national unity on a League policy. In the course of the dealing with the Abyssinian situation the Trades Union Congress in September, 1935, and the Labour Party Conference in October, 1935, by an overwhelming majority in each case, authorised those who speak for them in this House to put that League policy, and they have authorised us since not only to put that policy, but to say that whatever arms are required for collective security we will vote. You have the opportunity to get national unity on that point, and it depends upon the Government themselves, now face to face with difficulties, which, unfortunately, we foresee and foretell, having to make the best they can of the situation. I hope, therefore, that the Prime Minister will put that point to the Cabinet, and that he will give the lead to the Cabinet, and to the League. What is the alternative to collective action? It is perfectly true that we have an arrangement with France and that France has an arrangement with Czechoslovakia. Here is the position that we are in.

"We shall probably have no other set ally to look to with regard to the protection of freedom and liberty in Europe to-day unless we can act upon the basis of the League for the actual restraint of the aggressor."

Collective Security Only Hope.

The Member for Hillsborough pointed out further that loyalty to the League would necessitate far less national (Continued on page 2.)

HILLSBOROUGH PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION

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RALLY TO THE PEACE BANNER!

BY C. W. CARPENTER

International affairs have been moving with great rapidity during the past few weeks. Mr. Eden resigned on February 20th because he felt that the Government of this country was adopting a foreign policy contrary to the best interests of world peace and the League of Nations. Whilst not admitting this to be the case, the Prime Minister, in the House of Commons, made it perfectly clear that small nations need not look to the League for assistance in case of aggression and almost immediately we had the spectacle of Austria being over-run by German troops, whilst the nations comprising the League merely watched with grave concern and did nothing.

Small Nations Betrayed.

Following on this betrayal comes the imminent defeat of the Spanish

(Continued from page 2)

forces than the present attitude of isolated defensive measures. We know the kind of general policy which Herr Hitler has in mind with regard to central Europe. We know the kind of speech that Signor Mussolini made about the possible ideal of a Fascist Europe. We hardly think they are likely to give up that particular line of thought, said Mr. Alexander.

"We are anxious as a party," he continued, "that the Government should go back to the League and start right away with a collective policy against an aggressor, but we are anxious also that they should start considering agreement upon a larger and wider basis for peace. I am not in favour, nor is my party, of giving away colonies by chunks to a country which happens to be led by an aggressor, but we are perfectly willing to consider, upon the basis of a revision of the Mandates system, a proper access to raw materials and food with any nation in the world by agreement. I believe that if this country, in conjunction with a collective security policy, would give a lead in that direction, it would do a great deal towards the construction of a more permanent and stable peace. The way in which we have criticised the Government to-night may have been strong criticism, but it is not in any way with a desire to be harmful or dangerous, having regard to the situation in Europe. We want the Prime Minister to realise, with regard to collective security, that the Government will get a very great measure indeed of national unity and support.

Conscript Wealth as well as Life.

"As my hon. Friend the Member for Jarrow (Miss Wilkinson) pointed out earlier in the debate, if there is to be talk about conscription for military service, there must be conscription of profits. Profits ought not to be made out of war, when there is the suggestion of taking men's lives. Therefore, I hope that the Prime Minister, later on, will be quite clear on that point. If he is going to talk about the extension of military service, we want from him two things: first, we want to know what is the policy to be adopted in regard to collective security and the principle in international affairs to-day; and, secondly, we want to know what are to be the sacrifices called for from other members of the community as well as from those who are to be asked to give military or naval service. All of us hope that the frank expressions of views which we have had in the House to-night may lead to action which will evolve some measure of change of policy on the part of the Government that will lead us back to the League and collective security. We regard that as the only means of avoiding a major struggle in Europe, and we ask the Prime Minister to give it his consideration."

Government in its heroic struggle against the armed forces of Germany and Italy, whilst at the same time being deprived by the nations that comprise the League, of its rights to obtain arms to defend itself against the law breakers. The policy of Non-intervention has patently been one of hindrance to the Government of Spain and of refusal to hinder the aggressor. Is it any wonder that the eyes of all peoples turned to Czechoslovakia to see what attitude would be adopted there. The same story. We may or we may not defend Czechoslovakia against aggression. The decision will only be taken after the event. Is not this a terribly dangerous policy? Is it not exactly the same thing that happened in 1914 when, we are told, that had Germany realised in July of that year that her entry into Belgium would have resulted in this country coming into the war, then she would never have started the holocaust which raged for four terrible years? Have we not learned the lesson of 1914? Is it not obvious that the world should know exactly for what this nation is prepared to fight and for what she is not prepared to fight. Or is it that the answer to this question would reveal a state of things so embarrassing for the Government that proudence demands silence? If so, then it is truly a very dangerous thing that we should be

going on re-arranging in ignorance of the purposes to which these arms are to be put.

Surely the answer to the riddle of "What can save the peace of Europe" is that a strong League, based on justice and not power, is the only thing. And how can this be brought into being? By support of the peoples in the various countries who are free to make their choice making it clear in no uncertain way that this is the only type of "security" they are prepared to trust. That all others must eventually result in war.

In this country the way to show that public support of the League is for people to join the League of Nations Union, which has consistently stood by League principles, and to get their respective organisations to work with the Union in focussing public opinion. This is being done at the present time very largely through the International Peace Campaign, which is organising activities throughout the country. In Sheffield, we are to have within the next few weeks an intensive campaign, and hope that all readers will throw themselves wholeheartedly into the work.

Visit of Sir Norman Angell.

On Monday, April 4th, Sir Norman Angell spoke in the City Hall.

At 5:30 p.m. of the same day he opened an exhibition "Towards World Order" in the Central Library. This is entirely the work of a number of Sheffield friends, who have given months of labour to the cause of peace, and the exhibition should be visited by everyone who can possibly attend. It will be open each day from 10 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Sheffield Peace Week.

Then from May 7th-14th we are to have the Sheffield Peace Week, starting with a Paganant and Procession on the Saturday, May 7th. Services are being held in the churches on the two Sundays, May 8th and 15th.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings public meetings are being held, which are to be addressed by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Ramsay Rathbone, M.P., Professor Ramsay Muir, Mr. Vyvyan Adams, M.P., Mr. A. M. Wall, Miss Wellington Koo (daughter of the Chinese Ambassador and representative of China at Geneva), and others.

The Sheffield Film Society is giving a show of Peace films in the Channing Hall on Tuesday, May 10th, and on Friday and Saturday, May 13th and 14th, the various amateur dramatic societies in Sheffield are co-operating to produce a series of Peace Plays. Throughout the whole of the week a "Peace Shop" will be open at 64 Fargate, where information concerning the peace movement will be available and where there will be poster displays, etc. Amongst these posters will be the winning ones from a competition arranged for the schools of the city. Essays have also been written by the scholars and prizes are being given for the best of these, as well as for the best posters.

Within the last month of the campaign, there will be available in the city, slogan cards, which people are asked to collect and prizes will be awarded to those collecting the largest number of complete sets. Full particulars of the campaign will be found in the official handbook, which is being issued shortly.

In the meantime do not forget to visit the exhibition in the Central Library from April 4th to 9th.

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES

ATTERCLIFFE

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held a successful meeting on March 3rd, when Mr. C. S. Darvell spoke on his recent visit to Spain. A collection was taken on behalf of the Spanish Relief Fund. The monthly business meeting was held on the 20th, when a number of reports were given. Members will be encouraged as to the date of the April meetings.

BRIGHTSIDE

Following upon the address by Mr. H. Fox (Agriculture) and C. Co-operative Society, a further meeting is to be held on Saturday, April 2nd, at 7.30 p.m. in the Co-operative Institute, Bellhouse-road, when Mr. Fox will continue his address with special reference to the National Defence Tax.

The National Authority of the Co-operative Movement has circulated all co-operative societies and is mobilising opinion against this new imposition on mutual co-operation. Mr. Fox is eminently fitted for dealing with the details of Income Tax law and showing that this particular piece of legislation is an attempt to rob the Co-operative of its rights as against other citizens. The meeting will be followed by a Social, addressed to which is 3d. Secretary: Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sacey-avenue.

BURNGREAVE

The Burngreave Women's Section reports that they have had well-attended meetings during March. Councillor R. Fisher, Mrs. Austin, and Mrs. P. Sweeting have given addresses each Wednesday and a Social Evening was also held. Programme for April: 6th, Mrs. F. Watson will be the speaker; 13th, monthly City Council Report by Councillor (Mrs.) E. Birch; 20th, Social; 27th, Mrs. W. Darvell on "What I saw in Russia." A further field in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, on Wednesday evenings, at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. E. Yelland, 139, Scott-road.

HILLSBOROUGH

The Hillsborough section held a crowded meeting on the occasion of their Mack Cutlers' Feast on March 3rd. Councillor Slack as "Sir Stainless Slack," Councillor H. Wilkinson, "Foreign Secretary," Mr. R. Payling, "German Ambassador"; Mrs. C. R. Bottom as "Member of Parliament" on the Government side, and Mr. Ballard as the "Lord Mayor of the City" made humorous speeches with sly digs at the "National Government's" policy, causing high glee tempered with good political propaganda. The Institute Orchestra played selections during the evening. The dinner menu was not so ambitious as the orthodox Cutlers' Feast but, although the fare was humble, every guest enjoyed the repast as well as the speeches and music.

Alderman F. Womersley was the speaker on March 20th. On the 27th the Carnival Dance drew another huge crowd, when Alderman Watkins and Mrs. Alexander were judges of the fancy dress. Mrs. Alexander's dress made a short happy speech, was received with loud applause. The fancy dress, illustrative of co-operative productions, revealed the wide extent of co-operative service. The general fancy-dress class was also of a high standard and placed the judges in a very difficult position in the allocation of the prizes, so much so that further prizes were provided by Mrs. Alexander, who was greatly impressed by the delightful show.

On the 24th Mr. P. Dinsley spoke on "Local Government in relation to National Government." A Social Evening was held on the 31st. Programme for April: 7th, Councillor H. Slack on "Town Planning"; 14th, Old-time dance in the large Institute; 21st, Mr. G. Craddock will be the speaker; 28th, Mr. C. Darvell on "Socialism and Democracy."

The Women's Section which meets in the large Institute on Monday evenings have been addressed during

March by Councillor (Mrs.) H. Mitchell on "Hospitals," Councillor H. Slack on "The Municipal Budget," Mr. W. Scott. Programme for April: 4th, Social; 11th, speeches by Alderman J. A. Longden, J.P.; 18th (Easter Monday), no meeting; and 25th, Councillor A. Mappin is to speak.

WADSLAY AND WISEWOOD

The Wadslay and Wisewood Section, which operates in the Wadslay, Wisewood, Malin, and Woodland View Working Districts, reports that March proved to be a very interesting month. Mr. A. Ballard, the Party Organiser, spoke on the Party's constructive Peace Policy through the League of Nations. Councillor E. Slack gave the usual interesting City Council report. Mr. Parker, of the Frocheville Labour Party, dealt with "The Co-operative Section in East Russia." Councillor J. Gill, Chairman of the Primary Education Committee, enlarged upon Social education system.

April meetings are: 4th, Social Dance on the 6th, 8.30 p.m. to 11.0 p.m., admission 6d.; 13th, the monthly City Council Report will be given; 20th, a speaker; 27th, a Social. The meeting on the 27th will conclude the present syllabus.

Meetings held Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road. Secretary: Mr. W. Stephenson, 42, Findon-road.

NEEPSEND

The Neepsend Secretary, Mr. L. Bacon, reports the admission of new members at each of their meetings. On March 9th Councillor Stokes dealt with the City's Budget, giving a comparison of the rates per head of population in various cities. The development of the "green belt" also created a good deal of interest. Members will be circulated for the next meeting.

The Women's Section programme for April will open with a Social on the 4th, and an address by Councillor Slack on the 11th (Easter Monday), there will be no meeting, but on the 25th Mrs. E. Watson, the Secretary, will report on the South Yorkshire Lincolns Federation of the Co-operative Party.

Meetings held in the Co-operative Institute, Manners' street, Monday afternoons, at 2.30.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD

The Southey and Norwood Section, which operates also for the new Shirecliffe Estate, cancelled their meeting on March 3rd owing to the Women's Section leading their Annual Tea, Social, and Dance. The B. and C. Society's Quarterly Meeting on the 10th was attended by most of the members, in consequence of which the ordinary Party Meeting was cancelled. Seventeenth, Councillor R. Fisher, deputising for Councillor (Mrs.) Speight, dealt with the financial estimates for the year. The cost of Public Assistance demonstrated that the alleged prosperity in Sheffield had not yet reached the masses of people, while the standard of living had to be maintained by Public Assistance. On March 24th, the party organised a Social Evening in the form of a Fifth Year Defence, "Mr. W. Habeshaw, "Council for Applicants," and Mr. E. Green as "Clerk to the Court," played their parts with admirable humour. The social concluded with musical items.

The public meeting on March 15th, arranged by all the organisations at the Institute and held at the Longley Council School, was addressed by Alderman W. Dobbie, M.P., who spoke on "What I saw in Spain." His description of the horrors of Franco's ruffians and the bombing of defenceless women and children, was only tempered by the heroic defence of the Republican Army. He fought with undiminished courage "till they were being deprived of the right of obtaining arms to face the Fascist enemy.

A collection was taken on behalf of the Spanish Relief fund.

April programme of meetings, to be held in the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue, Thursdays, at 7.45 p.m., as follows: 7th, Councillor H. Slack on "The Factory Act, 1927"; 14th, Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., will give the monthly City Council Report; 21st, a Social Evening; 28th, Alderman W. Gascoigne on "The Sheffield that is to be." Women's Section meetings held Wednesday afternoons at three o'clock. Secretary: Mrs. H. Allen.

We are asked to draw attention of members to the outing to Dove Dale and Matlock on June 26th. Fare (including tax) 6s. Names should be sent in at the earliest possible date to the Secretary: Mr. G. A. Holder, 84, Southey Hall-road.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL

The Ecclesall Party commenced March with a business meeting. Fourteenth, Councillor H. Wilkinson was the speaker, and on the 21st Mrs. M. Owen addressed the members. The special public meeting on March 6th, addressed by the Rev. G. S. Woods (Co-operative M.P. for Fullam), was a great success. Alderman J. A. Longden, J.P., presided over a good attendance and the Rev. Woods kept his audience keenly interested on the need for increased representation of the Consumers' Movement in the House of Commons.

The meeting booked for April 4th will be cancelled in favour of the City Hall Rally to be addressed by Norman Ansell. There will also be no meeting on Easter Monday, but on April 11th a Business Meeting and City Council Report by Councillor S. H. Marshall, J.P., will be given. Twenty-fifth, the monthly Whist Drive, admission 6d. Meetings held in the Co-operative Institute, Napier-street, Mondays, at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mr. A. Wainwright, 19, Delf-street.

The Women's Section, which holds meetings on Thursday afternoons at three, held their Annual Tea and Social on March 3rd, when about 120 members and friends attended. A collection resulted in £1 being forwarded to the Spanish Medical Aid Committee. March 10th, Mr. A. Ballard, the Party Organiser, spoke on "Education and Democracy"; 17th, the Agenda for the Party Annual Conference was discussed; 24th, a joint meeting with the Galida Federation was held, when Mrs. Whitehead (of Chesterfield) gave an address on "Democracy." A further meeting was held in the evening, addressed by Mr. J. Bailey, National Organiser of the Co-operative Party. March 31st, a Whist Drive, the proceeds devoted to the Basque Children fund.

There will be no meetings on April 7th, 14th, and 21st, but a Business Meeting will be held on the 28th, at which reports will be taken. Secretary: Mrs. E. Williams, 8, Dart-square.

WOMEN'S PEACE RALLY

The International Peace Committee announce a Women's Rally at the City Hall on Thursday May 12th, at 7.30 p.m., when Mrs. Corbett Ashby will be the speaker. Miss Margaret Moxon (organising secretary, National Peace Council) will preside. Organist: Mrs. Mabel G. Jackson.

The peace campaign is supported by the Lady Mayress, Lady Mabel Smith, Mrs. H. W. Mackay, Dr. Helen Wilson, J.P., Alderman (Mrs.) G. Tebbutt, Miss Gertrude Ward, Mrs. Joseph Newman, Mrs. J. Barber, Mrs. C. C. Wilson, J.P., Mrs. Benson Perkins, Mrs. Edger Williams, Mrs. Alfred Hall, Mrs. K. Hollis, Miss E. M. Marples, and Mrs. A. Evison.

Reserved seats for men and women 1s. and 6d. each from Wilson Peck's. Blocks of seats of ten or more at 3d. each may be booked by societies. Orders, being prepaid, should be sent to the hon. treasurer: Mrs. M. Scott, 132, Dobbin Hill, Sheffield, 11.

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"WE LIVE AND LEARN"

"We Live and Learn," being a series of addresses by Sir Josiah Stamp, Macmillan, 7s. 6d. net.

The title is a good one, but it does not necessarily express the truth. Unfortunately, a good many of us do not live and learn; we lived during the last war, but its lessons were unheeded.

This book contains some very good criticism of modern education and educational method. According to it, "education has a threefold purpose: it should fit us to get a living, to live a life, and to mould a world." He has some devastating comments on democracy, too, which are well worth attention.

Democracy.

"Democracy," he says, "has everywhere failed to make good its promises. . . . Everywhere, the politician gives way to the mass-judgement. . . . We do not know whether it is possible to raise the mental power of the millions in a few generations by education so as to make the postulates of democracy come true. Meantime, we are making the mistake of what the Duke of Wellington called 'educating people beyond their brains.' Some of the products of Eton have proved the last sentence conclusively—start from the general case he presents. Our present 'democracy' is giving too much chance to the brainless incompetents, to the pushers-in, and to the fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

He is critical but not conclusive in the matter of Poverty and Plenty. "Plenty makes Poverty, it seems—we get a new doctrine of wealth, 'to make one blade of grass grow where two grew before.' We can make, and grow, but we cannot distribute, and a better social judgment is required than anything the universities or education have yet produced. But for democracy and wealth distribution alike be looks to education. The educational ideal must in a sense always impose the conclusions of its best thinkers upon a less critical multitude: we are learning from experience that it cannot do this by mere law-making in a democracy—it must do it by a host of educated men who bear the truth in every kind of vessel, in

every mode of speech, by precept and example, to any type of mind and every kind of life. That is a very rare and a useful contribution.

Physical Fitness.

He has some penetrating references to physical fitness, and to examinations. These are worthy of consideration, and are here summarised.

Memory, he says, may be so over-loaded as to prohibit freedom of thought. "It is a fine thing to see a physically developed giant perform, unaided, great feats of strength. . . . Very awful indeed for the Stone Age. But that kind of development is not calculated to achieve the highest results in society to-day. It is not often wanted. It is better to be punier, and even sicker, and yet to know which button to push, which lever to pull, to light dark places, start great dynamos, share the power losses of the world. In like manner most of the intellectual work in the world does not require to be done by brain on desert islands, isolated from accumulated knowledge.

You will be mentally more powerful if you know where to find knowledge instantly than if you stuff your head with facts. . . . The man who knows his way about a library is more effective to-day than the man who knows twenty books by heart."

There is much—very much—in that! He tells a capital story of an old negro mother whose son had failed to get into the University. "You just get to use yo' brains, now," she instructed him. Time and time again, his criticisms universities, which, being human institutions, are not perfect. They are a part of civilisation capable of great things, however, and, indeed, their services now are great. He aims at keeping them in touch with life, resilient to its changing needs. "Having had a university education," he advises students, "you will never fail to mix with minds of different views. . . . For the differences of able and sincere men are the growing points of progress." That is the kind of democracy of which we have need.

THIS BLESSED ISLE

A COMMENTARY BY "DEMOS"

On Night Duty.

"In Chamberlain, Britain has a champion who will see her through the long night of fear into the morning of peace."

With these soothing words one of our daily newspapers brought relief to a bewildered nation the other morning. Of course, a few ignorant critics tried to spoil it by asking if it ought not to be split "mourning." But their can be ignored. They are clearly just a lot of hotheads, who don't realize that Mr. Chamberlain's peace is the greatest peace of all, for it is not the peace which possibly misunderstanding?

The Brighter Sunday Movement goes on from success to success. All records were broken when great crowds flocked into the village of Fennyton to view the shop where a murder took place a few days before.

Nobly sacrificing their Sunday afternoon nap, 30,000 people turned out to witness this impressive rally. It's a pity the authorities kept the shop closed. They might have raised quite a big sum towards the cost of Air Raid Precautions or something if they had opened up and charged a small admission fee.

Anyway, we give them the tip for the next grand outing.

Bulls and Bears.

This is not a Zoo men. Quite the contrary. It gives you stirring news of that mighty institution—the British Stock Exchange.

You know the place. Source of the nation's supply of risqué stories and workshop of those gifted servants of the public who look after shareholders' money.

It seems that things were slack the other week, there having been no announcement of arms loans or anything. So to keep in form they organised a nice little gamble on the result of the Mayfair trial.

Big business was done amidst great excitement with "Mayfair units"—these being estimates of the aggregate sentences likely to be imposed on the four accused.

Bulls and bears had a hectic time, and much money changed hands when the sentences were announced.

As the total sentences were sixteen-and-a-half years, well below the expectation of our usually astute stock-broking fraternity, buyers of £100 units at 23 lost £600; whilst sellers of £50 units at 22 were rewarded for their enterprise with net winnings of £150. It all sounds like good clean fun, yet these dangerous Labour people would put a stop to it by setting up a National Investment Board or something—the spoilsports!

Truth About Money.

The search for truth goes on in spite of all the difficulties.

Yet one more discovery has been added to the store of human knowledge by a daily newspaper, which, after hours of careful probing of the facts no doubt, was able to reveal the following: "No slum can come if people go as busy."

However, it is necessary to have enough money to buy with. Another newspaper, doing valuable research in the same field, arrived at this interesting conclusion:— "We not only need people who will buy; we need people who will spend."

Explanation.

The Financial Secretary to the War Office is reported to have said in the House of Commons the other day, "I do not know what democratisation of the Army means."

We are happy to come to his assistance. Briefly, it means making it possible for men who understand the meaning of words of more than three syllables to achieve positions of authority and direction in the Army and at the War Office.

"Oh to be in England"

Now that April's here, can holidays be far behind?

Spring has already come to your co-operative store's windows—the store where month by month the pattern of the year's progress is recorded in seasonal things, foodstuffs, clothing, and things to use, suggesting, now, gay holidays ahead.

For holiday spending, as indeed with your workaday spending, too, safeguard your pocket these increased cost-of-living times by shopping at the Co-op. and insisting on C.W.S. goods.

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In hard-wearing Tweeds
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Sizes 000-2 from 10/6
In Navy Blue Serge
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CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

"THE ARCADE"

ECCLESALL ROAD

BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

SPLENDID WORK BY LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES

On March 15th the Labour Party candidates at the triennial elections to the Bradfield Parish Council gained seven new seats, five in Stanington and two in Oughtibridge. In consequence the Labour Party now have a substantial working majority, and, after twelve months in office, the new councillors have shown what Labour can achieve when given the opportunity.

Footpaths.

Although the actual powers of a Parish Council are limited by Statute, much good work has already been accomplished. The footpaths through the entire district are now receiving that very necessary attention so parsimoniously denied under Tory Rule. Numerous paths have already been repaired, and we are very pleased to report that the dangerous cliff-head path from Rowell to Acorn Hill is now to be properly fenced. Residents in the locality with young children and the numerous workmen who use the path daily will appreciate this work, particularly as all previous efforts to get it done were refused.

Varied and numerous, of course, are the other activities of this progressive Council, but we mention repairs to footpaths mainly as in this sphere the achievements are patent to all.

Education.

The re-formation of the Council

caused by Labour's clean sweep resulted also in a reorganisation of the County Council Education Sub-committee, and Labour is now the deciding factor on this body. Under the able guidance of the chairman, Councillor P. Gibson (Oughtibridge), much valuable work is being carried out. The schools in the district concerned are now being regularly visited by committee members, and many anomalies and difficulties regarding staff, equipment and bookings are being steadily overcome. Much work in this field yet remains to be done, but no effort is spared by the members concerned. Complaints by parents (happily not numerous) are fully investigated, and the relationship between teachers and committee is cordial.

The proposed new senior school is now taking up much time of the committee, and teachers and parents of scholars alike can rest assured that working-class interests are the first consideration of the Labour-controlled Bradfield Education Sub-committee.

We urge all workers in the area to join the local Labour Party so that the seven representatives can go forward with greater zest and assure that we not only have a Labour Parish Council, but a Rural and County Labour Council. Were it not for the Tory opposition on both the W.A.D.C. and W.R.C.C., the present Parish Council would be able to do more effective work. (Continued at foot of next column.)

RAISING THE SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE

NO MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES: DIFFICULTIES IN ADMINISTRATION

BY COUNCILLOR J. W. HOLLAND, J.P.
(Member, Sheffield City Education Committee)

ANOTHER change of landmark in educational legislation and administration will become operative in September, 1938. At that time all the children attending school will have been granted "exemption certificates," and will have to remain until they are fifteen years plus, that is one year more than at present.

There is, therefore, early need for examination as to methods to be employed in the granting of these certificates.

Whilst the Local Authorities are to have wide powers in the definition as to what the Board of Education calls "beneficial employment" and the grounds upon which the exemption certificate may be granted, still the fact that adequate maintenance allowance to the poorest parents for the extra year is not available may mean hardship in many cases and is of course a definite weakness in the Act.

During the passing of the Act, and since its publication, the associations, along with the Co-operative and Labour representatives, have protested against these exemption certificates without adequate power to grant allowances, but as the Act is now on the Statute Book it is essential that the best method of administration will be employed in the primary interests of the children. As a result of the protests, however, the Government have issued a circular (1437) giving suggestions as to methods to be used with regard to school attendance when the Act comes into operation, particularly Sections 3-7 of the Act.

In spite of this explanatory circular the Trades Union Congress and the Association of Education Committees have held special meetings for the consideration of the problems that are sure to be raised. The latter Association, in consultation with the teachers, present definite rules for guidance and whilst they vary from those suggested by the Trades Union Congress, they both emphasise the necessity of maximum safeguards and the exercising of the utmost care in carrying out the Act.

Space prevents consideration in detail of these proposals but it is fully recognised that the power given to Local Education Authorities to define "beneficial employment" is very extensive and purely permissive, which means that the conditions may be varied as between different districts. Before the Local Education Authority grant an exemption certificate which will be essential for a child under fifteen years of age, the Government Circular advises that the term "beneficial" should only be given in regard to prospects as well as the immediate conditions of the employment to which the child is allocated, in particular to:

- (a) The nature and probable duration of employment, the wages to be paid, and the hours of work;
- (b) The opportunities to be afforded to the child for further education;
- (c) The time available for the child's recreation;
- (d) The value in relation to the future career of the child, of any training or other advantage afforded by the employment;
- (e) The determination of the Education Authority is to be conclusive on these points. Forms of application will have to be filled in by both parent and employer giving any details which may be necessary for the requirement of the Local Authority. In the case of children being needed at home by reason of special circumstances, ex-

emption can be granted on the application of the parent.

Other difficulties which can be foreseen, such as the need for advice as to employment being given at fourteen as now, or, Authorities, etc., between adjacent Authorities, as well as having prompted the T.U.C. to make certain definite suggestions, as follows:

(a) Employment should be guaranteed by the employer for a minimum period of twelve months.

In view of the very proper insistence in the Act itself that regard should be had to the probable duration of the employment, it seems reasonable to ask employers to guarantee that the child is giving up school approximately a year of school life should, at least, be guaranteed a job for the first year of his or her industrial life.

(b) Employment should form part of an organised course of training leading to a skilled occupation.

It is suggested by way of meeting the requirement of the Act that regard shall be had as well to the prospective as to the immediate benefit to the child of the proposed employment and to safeguard against the risk of the employment of exempted children to blind-alley occupations.

(c) Hours of work should be definitely less than forty-eight a week; say thirty-six. Work should not begin before 8 a.m. or continue after 6 p.m., and overtime should be prohibited. Suitable meal intervals should also be given.

(d) Provision should be made for a half-holiday on one working day every week and a fortnight's annual holiday with full pay.

The excellent School Medical Service in Sheffield will enable the Local Authority to act as advised by the Government Circular which states that medical reports should be considered as to a child's suitability for: severe manual work, sedentary work, exposure to bad weather, work in dusty atmosphere, work near machinery, or work involving prolonged standing, or causing eye-strain, requiring acute distant vision or hearing.

Whilst the economic need in the poorest homes our people for early wage earning may be agreed, I personally hope that co-operators will not apply for exemption for any child, and that the employment age should be fifteen in the case of the co-operative societies.

"There is no wealth but life" said Ruskin, let us see that our children have the fullest opportunity to appreciate and enjoy in the words of Dr. Fisher "all that life can offer in the sphere of knowledge, emotion, and hope."

THIS IS IN BRITAIN TO-DAY!

You know that neighbour of yours who keeps telling you that the Labour Party's talk about poverty is nonsense. Well, next time you see him, tell him about Mrs. Matthews.

Her home in Clerkenwell consists of two rooms, for which she pays a rent of ten a week. One is used for a bedroom because the roof lets in the rain. The other is furnished with two chairs, a table, and two beds.

Well, Mrs. Matthews was before the County Court for arrears of rent, which she had been paying off at the rate of 2s. a week. She told the Registrar that she had 21s. a week to feed and clothe herself, husband and four young children. "I manage," she said, "but I don't always know how."

Comment of the Registrar was: "I think it is amazing the cheerfulness and loyalty with which women like you run their homes."

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"THE ARCADE," ECCLESALL ROAD

(Continued from previous column.)

on behalf of the people they represent. The local secretaries are: Oughtibridge, Mr. P. Gibson, the Lodge, S.Y.M.F.; Middlewood - road and Stanington, Mr. F. Peerce, 7, Dykes-lane, Sheffield, 6.

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**HIGH RENTS
OF DECONTROLLED
HOUSES**

TORY M.P. ENDORSES LABOUR'S CASE FOR CONTROL

When the Rent Restrictions Bill was before the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on March 17th, Mr. C. G. Amson moved a Labour amendment to provide for the reconrol of houses which have fallen out of control of a rateable value not exceeding £45 in London and Scotland, and £35 elsewhere. He urged that this step is necessary because the supply of such houses is not yet sufficient to justify decontrol. Mr. Bea Gardner, supporting the amendment, said if the Government wanted to encourage an increased birth-rate, rents of working-class houses should be controlled. Workers could not be allowed to pay high rents and have an increase of family.

Mr. E. W. Solt, a Birmingham Tory M.P., produced some glaring cases of landlords in that city taking advantage of decontrol to extort higher rents. He mentioned that the Housing Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations has passed a resolution calling attention to the excessive rents resulting from decontrol and asking the Government to take action in the matter. The Birmingham Corporation has also passed a resolution favouring legislation to bring all Class C houses under control.

In Birmingham, he added, the rents of decontrolled houses had increased on an average by 46.7 per cent. Advances were taken by many landlords of the scarcity of houses. The rent of a post-war house which was 6s. 6d. a week was now increased to 25s.

In spite of this endorsement of Labour's case by a Government supporter, the Minister of Health opposed the amendment. Mr. Tom Johnston pointed out that the Minister had not attempted to dispute the Birmingham figures, which could be paralleled in almost every industrial area.

The amendment was defeated by 25 votes to 12.

**THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY IN
PARLIAMENT**

**HOW PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DOMINATES
THE WESTMINSTER SCENE**

The work of the nine Co-operative Party M.P.s during the 1937 Parliamentary Session is described in the pamphlet "The Tory Machine at Work at Westminster," written by a Parliamentary Journalist and published for the Co-operative Party by the Co-operative Union Ltd., Holyoake House, Hanover-street, Manchester, 4. This introduction to this cheery, 4s. This introduction to this admirable work is reproduced below.

The record of the Parliamentary Session of 1937 is the true tradition of the Tory Party, masquerading under the misleading guise of a "National Government."

Its policy of subsidies has been solely in the interests of private enterprise, supported by the pliancy of company directors who swam the Government benches.

The tariffs and quotas have resulted in a soaring of prices of the essential food of the people, making more penurious the plight of the poorest people.

This has resulted in lowering the standard of life at a time when the Government ironically has launched a physical fitness campaign.

Bored by Marketing Boards.

The Marketing Board schemes have brought into being an expensive army of officials; the whole effect of their operations is to add to the profits of producers at the expense of the consumer.

The Government has consistently ignored the claims made by the co-operative members that the consumers' interests should be directly represented on these bodies.

The Milk Marketing Board has been spending thousands of pounds on publicity to increase milk consumption, while the high prices paid have seriously curtailed the demand.

Another Onslaught on the Co-operative Movement.

The Government's anti-Co-operative bias has been again demonstrated by the further injustice done to the movement by the iniquitous "National Defence Contribution" tax.

Once the principle of multiplicity was destroyed under the provisions of the Finance Act of 1933, the way was made clear for a further raid on co-operatives funds.

This gross injustice is all the more palpable from the fact that co-operative societies have been refused the concessions granted to utility societies and building societies, notwithstanding the similarity of the workings of the three undertakings.

City Pressure on the Chancellor.

In its original form the Chancellor of the Exchequer sought to impose the extra tax on increased profits of trading organizations.

This would have included in a special tax the extravagant profits made by armament manufacturers and other Government contractors.

The City of London and big trading interests, so formidably entrenched at Westminster, were alarmed at the prospect of having to disgorge a portion of their inflated profits. Their persistent pressure resulted in the Chancellor meekly bowing to the storm.

The present injustice will continue so long as vested interests dominate Parliament. The remedy can only be found in a change of Government. Unfortunately many Co-operators do not have voted for supporters of the present reactionary Government, and have put into their hands power to inflict additional heavy burdens on the larger societies.

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THE "PROGRESSIVE 'STANDSTILL'"

BY COUNCILLOR H. SLACK

I notice that the "J.P.P." has clung into the "Progressive Standard". Still, if the party can change its name, so can the name of its paper be changed as occasion suits. Nevertheless, it remains the organ of the same old Tory Party now known as the "Progressives," composed of anti-workers who had control of the City's affairs for more than 100 years. They tell the electors that they desire to serve them as in the past. But that is enough, the electors want something different from the past with its sweated conditions and living in slums herded around the factories in which they worked for the greater part of the twenty-four hours. It has been sufficient for the electors to see their employers connected with the "Progressive" Party and compare their political manifestations with the industrial treatment of their workers. It is the experience of the workers which has taught them that only the policy

of Labour and Co-operation can improve the city and bring the benefits the workers desire.

In the March issue of the "Progressive Standard" appear some guarded comments on the Rates of the City—a favourite topic of the Tories. (One would think that only they paid rates when, as a matter of fact, the workers pay more in relation to their ability than any other section of the community. This because of the unfair system of rate assessment which it is desired to alter when the National Government (supported by the "Progressive" Party) will give the necessary powers to Local Authorities. A comparative table of the rate in the pound of thirteen cities and towns is given in the "Progressive Standard," but this information is not so important to the ratepayers as the actual amount paid each head of the population of various cities. The following is a table showing such a comparison:—

| | Sheffield | Birmingham | Liverpool | Manchester | Leeds |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Rates in £ ... | 18 0 | 15 0 | 15 0 | 15 6 | 15 0 |
| Rates per head... of population | £1 19 2 | £1 17 6 | £1 3 10 | £1 3 4 | £1 0 0 |

So Sheffield compares favourably there. Also it indicates that there is other information required apart from the mere statement of rates in the pound. Equally important is the extent of services given and if one compares Sheffield's services with those of other comparable cities, the decision will be that Sheffield gives more value for money.

Reference is also made to three of the largest business shops in the city and the rates they have to pay. I see no mention of the workers and their rates, but, of course, the "Progressive" Party represent Big Business and Vested Interests, not the workers—who cannot pass their rates on for somebody else to pay as Big Business does. The industrial friends of the "Progressive" Party are relieved of 75 per cent. of their rates, even where they are paying large dividends.

Public Assistance is dealt with. The "Progressives" ask vaguely for economy in this department. Knowing them as employers we know their "economy" means a "cutting down." They haven't the courage to say this, but if they ever get control again they certainly will cut relief scales all right. The electors have not forgotten the old Poor Law days when men had to do useless task work and applicants for relief were made to sell some of their bones.

No mention is made in the "Pro-

gressive Standard" about the repayment of the Goschen Loan which the "Progressives" (at that time the "Citizens Association") borrowed, and the repayment is costing taxpayers in the pound of rates. This will not be liquidated until 1944—another of the legacies of the "Progressive" past.

Many things the "Progressive" Party have said of the city have been included to do harm, amongst which is their reference to the city's debt. The following is a comparison again of the five large cities showing the debt per head of population:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|------------|----|----|----|
| Sheffield | 59 | 4 | 5 |
| Birmingham | 54 | 13 | 5 |
| Liverpool | 58 | 5 | 5 |
| Manchester | 61 | 18 | 11 |
| Leeds | 59 | 16 | 7 |

Whilst against this must be set the assets in excess of liabilities amounting to £14,000,000.

Surely the electors know who best serve their interests.

He was speaking with great vigour against corporal punishment for boys, which he declared never did any good. "Take my own case," he exclaimed, "I was never caned but once in my life, and that was for speaking the truth."

"Well," rejoined somebody in the audience, "it cured you."

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may be had if desired. You should certainly take advantage of this scheme. Application forms can be obtained at the City Stores or at any Grocery Branch. If you are interested, why not get further particulars?

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