

The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR

The Blackmail Budget

YOUR PENNIES FOR

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

FUEHRER

FROM 1931 to 1937 Sir John Simon was Foreign Secretary. He had the opportunity of giving a lead to the League of Nations by supporting the Covenant and collective security when Japan wantonly attacked China. But, like Pilate, he washed his hands of it. "I do not intend my own country to get into trouble about it," he told the House of Commons in February, 1933.

It was fitting that he should have the burden on April 26th of explaining the Budget "trouble" his policy had brought upon his country. For, we, as taxpayers, must now pay a heavy price for the treachery and futility of the National Government's Foreign Policy. The Chancellor has introduced in peace time the second war Budget in succession. There are more to follow! Look at the enormous expenditure he budgets for:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Out of Revenue..... | 944,000,000 |
| Out of Loan..... | 90,000,000 |
| Out of loan for supplementary estimates on defence services (52%)..... | 75,000,000 |

Total.....1,029,000,000
New taxation to make up the £94,000,000 of revenue is £30,000,000, but this leaves a deficit of over £60,000,000 to be raised by borrowing.
The war expenditure in this peace Budget is colossal. It seems likely to reach £30,000,000 for the year, made up as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Fighting services estimates | 343,000,000 |
| Fighting services supplementary estimates (52%) | 15,000,000 |
| Air rail precautions, food storage and oil reserves (approximately)..... | 13,000,000 |
| Total..... | 370,000,000 |

This is much greater than the total yield of income tax at 5s. 6d. in the pound.

Think of the burden of taxation in this Budget. Customs and Excise duties will amount this year to £34,000,000, including an increase of 2s. per pound in the Tea Duty, which will now be 8d. on foreign and 6d. per pound on Empire.

In effect, every time the wife of an unemployed man or an elderly pensioner buys a quarter-of-a-pound of tea she must pay a tax of 2d. to the Government.

Over £30,000,000 of these Customs

and Excise Duties will be paid by working-class families! Food taxes alone will amount to nearly £42,000,000. Income tax rises to 5s. 6d. in the pound, in addition to the National Defence Contribution at 1s. in the pound—unprecedented taxation in peace time.

What a price to pay for a so-called National Government! Taxation up by more than £200,000,000 over 1930-31. Debt up by more than £600,000,000.

This Government has now proved not only, as prophesied by Labour, to be a menace to Peace, but also to be leading the country to financial disaster, and to be placing our people in bondage for generations to come.

What would a Labour Chancellor do if faced with the growing problem by Labour, but by the worst capitalist Government of modern times?

First and foremost, he would have to insist on a complete change of foreign policy. At present we go on yielding to blackmail by dictators, yet the Government have so little faith in the word of the dictators that they go on actively preparing for war at ever-increasing cost. There must be a return to League principles and the organisation of collective security.

In no other way can the dictators be deterred from the ultimate attack they have ruthlessly planned; in no other way can measures of disarmament and reduction of this wasteful, yet provocative, expenditure be secured.

Fundraising in armaments would have to be brought to an end. The experience in the later years of the Great War proves conclusively the enormous saving which can be effected by Government control of arms production.

There would be an early revision of the enormous system of subsidies now paid out to industry. Where such subsidies were continued, conditions would be attached as to the wages paid to the workers in the industries, and a share would be taken by the Government in the product of the industry, including a stake in the industry.

The problem of debt would have to be really tackled. Wealth is once more rising side by side with poverty, and there should be no hesitation in fitting the burden to the backs best able to bear it, not forgetting the landless. If this is not done, depend upon it, a National Government, if re-elected, will once more attack the social services in the interests of so-called "economy."

The savings effected should be devoted to the planning of industry to avoid the certain slump which is coming, and to take out of industry the oldest and the

youngest workers by means of adequate pensions and educational allowances. Remember that, in 1937, we produced 25 per cent. more goods than in 1929, but compared with the latter year, had 500,000 more unemployed.

There would be a policy of stimulating the home market through the improvement of purchasing power, by reducing food taxation, and by other measures, including the control of the Bank of England, and the abolition of the Means Test.

There would be relief to local authorities, and especially help for the Special and Distressed Areas, supplementing the planning of industry by the provision of houses, schools, and roads.

Finally, there would be intensive efforts to deal with the growing problem of the adverse balance of trade by promoting freer exchange of goods between nations.

In 1933, 83 per cent. of our imports were paid for by visible exports. In 1937, when Labour was subjected to so much talk about the adverse balance of trade, 71 per cent. of our imports were paid for by visible exports. In 1937, in spite of the Government's heavy tariffs and quotas, operating against imports, only 58 per cent. of our imports were paid for by visible exports. An economic conference called by a Labour Chancellor in this country would, I am certain, have a very substantial effect in the right direction.

These are broad outlines. They can be followed, as has been proved by the success of such Labour Governments as that in New Zealand.



We are now, as I have pointed out, paying the price of a National Government. We shall continue to do so for decades to come, even if we escape the major disaster of war, unless Labour's Foreign Policy is adopted, and its financial and social policy thus made possible.

—Reprinted from "Reynolds News."

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PARTY CONFERENCE MAKES POLITICAL HISTORY

Big Decisions In "Coming of Age" Year

The Co-operative Party's conference in its "coming-of-age" year proved to be one of the most important since the Party was formed. The Peace Alliance question, taken at a private session on Sunday, dominated the conference, and its importance tended to overshadow other issues.

Thus the proposed changes on the National Committee to give representation to the local units—changes which will come up for final decision at Congress—did not bring any notable comment, although the demand of the local organisations for representation has been one of the big issues of internal policy at the Party conferences of the last few years.

Brighton lived up to its claim to be the "Queen of Watering Places" by giving the conference a royal welcome, both from the civic authorities, whose greetings were conveyed by the Mayor, Alderman Herbert Hoar, and from Brighton Society, whose welcome was extended by Mr. F. A. Gibbons. Mr. R. A. Palmer, introduced by the chairman, Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P., as "a big man in every respect," brought the greetings of the Co-operative Union. Fraternal regard from the Labour Party was Mr. George Dallas (chairman), whose speech is reported below. There were 504 delegates.

A feature of the conference was a special display at the reception given by Brighton Society of political propaganda films made by the London Society's Political Committee.



Ready for one of the most important statements ever made from the Chair at the Party conference, Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P., steps for the camera before opening the first session.

Chairman of Labour Party

In extending greetings on behalf of the Labour Party, Mr. George Dallas remarked that the conference was meeting in a very grave and very serious times, "very much more grave, I am afraid, than the great majority of our population realise." People were talking of the possibility and the probability of war. If we were drifting to war, however, it was not because of the breakdown of the Socialist, trade union, or co-operative movements in this or any other country; it was because of the breakdown of capitalism.

It was within a few days of fifty years since Keir Hardie raised the banner at Mid-Lanark of political independence— independence of the parties on the right, independence of the parties on the left.

"We in the Labour Party will never surrender that banner to anybody," he said. "We shall not sacrifice our lifework on what I believe to be the eve of political fulfilment."

A QUICK ELECTION.

If Mr. Chamberlain got some plausible agreement with Mussolini, he might

go to the country. If he did not get an agreement he might be chased out of office. "We must be ready," declared Mr. Dallas. "When you have settled your problems in your conference I urge you to go away determined that this year and up to the time of the General Election, we shall do greater things than we have ever done before to put this iniquitous Government out of office, and put a Labour and Socialist Government in its place, determined to give a lead for peace to the whole world" (Loud applause).

Support For Peace Alliance

In his address from the chair Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P., gave a personal welcome to the Peace Alliance proposals of Mr. Sydney Elliott, editor of "Reynolds News."

"These are dangerous days for democracy," he declared. "Millions of workers have had their rights to organise for economic, political, and social betterment ruthlessly suppressed by Fascist trade; have seen their trade unions, co-operative societies, and political parties destroyed by dictatorship. Racial and religious persecution abounds. Fascist dictators and governments, adopting the methods of the gangster, have brought Europe and the world again to the brink of war.

"This Co-operative Party conference, representing 5,350,000 affiliated co-operators, cannot confront this catastrophe without realising that, individually and collectively, we carry a terrific responsibility to think hard and clearly, and to act courageously to avert this danger—if this is still time.

"I feel most deeply that this is not the occasion for political platitudes. "We are in fact, at war, although for the moment we are spared the searing devastation of the bomb and gun. We are at war because every nation, large and small, is feverishly engaged in piling up colossal armaments in the air, on land and on the sea.

"Who can face this situation and be lulled off with the fraudulent pretence that the purpose and policy behind rearmament is to keep the peace? "The vicious drive towards rearmament divorced from Collective Security is gathering momentum. The end of this policy is Armageddon."

"If war is to be forced upon the nations," continued Mr. Barnes, "then there must be a grim determination that Great Britain and the Democracies of Europe must triumph over the brutalising forces of Fascism. We cannot contemplate

the intellectual, moral, and economic degradation which Fascism would produce.

"The first step for the British people to take to avert the breakdown of the international law and to check the use of force is to defeat the National Government. Mr. Chamberlain, as Prime Minister, should be compelled by public opinion to resign. The National Government must go, because, from the moment it took office in 1931, it has consistently mismanaged and misjudged foreign affairs, and, therefore, must accept a large responsibility for the steady deterioration of international conditions.

THE SUPREME ISSUE.

"Retribution for the modéré, deceit, dishonesty, and incompetence of the National Government's foreign policy has resulted upon the nation with deadly consequences.

"I say emphatically that the supreme issue we have to face now is to decide which policy is most likely to avert war, which policy is most likely to bring about peace. I believe that anything is certain in this uncertain situation, it is that the majority of the British people instinctively realise that the surest way to avert universal disaster is to make the League of Nations immediately effective against aggression.

"The trade unions, the Co-operative Party, and the Labour Party believe that;

"The Liberal Party believes it;

"The majority of religious leaders in the country believe it. A good section of the Conservative Party believes it.

"If you think this issue, at the moment, transcends all else, it is the overriding responsibility of the leaders of parties and movements belonging to the League to let that belief find practical political expression.

"The task before us is to mobilise the power and resources of all those nations in the world that still believe in the reign of law. The imagination of the masses in every country must be stirred to support this policy. Small, wavering States must have their courage, and their faith in the League restored."

SEVEN YEARS OF FAILURE.

To emphasize the urgency of a new policy, Mr. Barnes reviewed the events of the past seven years. When the National Government took office in 1931, Germany, Japan, and Italy were members of the League. Initiative and power to determine policy in Europe and the Far East rested solely with the democratic States.

To-day, initiative had passed to Germany, Italy, and Japan. The clouds of war gathered on the arrogance of Fascist Spain. The threat from Fascist policy had grown to menacing proportions because of infection, bumbling, and divisions among the democratic States.

First was the short-sighted attitude of the Allied Powers, led by France towards the Liberal-Democratic Briten-

ing German Government. Hitler took by force what the Allies had refused to give through reason. In the Far East, Japan pursued a similar policy.

A magnanimous action by a group of Great Powers on behalf of weaker nations like China would change the whole orientation of world thought.

TRAGEDY OF SPAIN.

"Spain and the Fascist revolt of General Franco against the constitutionally-elected Government of Spain follows on in this sorry recital of events," declared Mr. Barnes.

"After centuries of servility the Spanish people make a mighty effort to throw off the yoke of tyranny. Just as hope surges upwards in their souls, and they taste the first exhilarating fruits of liberty, they have to meet the savage onslaught of Fascism.

"The organised workers of Britain have been passionately eager to aid the Spanish people, but we have been frustrated at every turn by the National Government, whose non-intervention policy has been as valuable to Franco as the arms and men he has received from his Fascist allies.

"How long is this to go on? How long are our political alignments in Britain to be allowed to reduce us to futility during this grave and fateful period in international affairs? Is British democracy to be hamstringed whilst the opposition parties and groups that advocate the League and Collective Security abroad continue to practice political isolation at home? Do we not, in fact, by these tactics assist the criminal policy of the National Government, whilst the democracies of the world are garrotted one by one by an insatiable Fascism?"

"The rapid march of events has compelled me to realise that all I have worked for as a co-operator, trade unionist, and Socialist is imperilled if we comes. I consider the defeat of the Chamberlain Government transcends for the time being all our domestic issues and differences.

"For these reasons I welcome the lead given by Mr. Sydney Elliott in 'Reynolds News.' (Applause.) In doing so, I speak as an individual and not for the Co-operative Party; but in these momentous times, public men should say fearlessly what they think."

—Reprinted from the "Co-operative News."

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Mr. Neil S. Beaton, president of the S.C.W.S., shakes hands with Mr. George Dallas, Labour Party fraternal delegate.

PULVERISING THE PROGRESSIVES

By "VULCANITE"

This "Progressive Standard" is a fine symbol of a Progressive Party. It is very small and very confused, and what it happens to give away in the way of resting matter is obviously an exceedingly cheap affair.

It does, however, make much play upon the fact that a brand new school to accommodate 537 children, has been placed on the Arbourthorne Estate, and "that there was no fact that the Estates Committee's quarterly report for December, 1937, gives details of children between the ages of five and fourteen, living on that estate. Now it is a legal requirement upon the education committee to provide school accom-

modation by the time the houses are built.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

In the first place, the committee which made the decision to build had Alderman Jackson upon it, and he raised no objection, nor was any criticism raised by any member of the Progressive Party until after the school had been built.

In the second place, obviously, a report, produced in or after December, 1937, is no good whatever as information to guide us as to what school places should be provided in a school finished before that date.

The building of the school was decided upon on January 9th, 1935.

Alderman Jackson himself being present on that occasion. There was no knowledge whatever as to which households would remove to the Arbourthorne Estate, and at that time the only satisfactory information was that which could be gleaned from the Manor Estate. The number of children on the Manor Estate had been two per house, and with a known decline in the birth rate, it was accepted as reasonable that 1's per house would meet the needs of the Arbourthorne Estate. This basis was accepted by all the members of the committee, including the Progressives.

In due time the houses were occupied; in fact, they were not finally completed, and occupied until February of 1938. It now transpires that the present child population of the estate of school age is 66 per house.

Observe that Alderman Jackson and other Progressives raised no comment or question, and the Board of Education was itself satisfied—and it would need to be, since it pays half of the cost. In any event, however, the child shortage is a temporary one.

The plain fact of the whole case is that under no circumstances could any other decision have been arrived at with regard to the necessary accommodation so far as the evidence at that time was available.

The accommodation for secondary schools, however, is remarkably low in Sheffield, despite the considerable progress that has already been made, and Arbourthorne happens to be a godsend in that it permits us to take in for at least two years the new pupils for a secondary school not yet built. It will therefore be used this year for secondary school scholars who otherwise could have no secondary education at all.

The editor of the "Progressive Standard" does not mention this, and is probably still unaware of the fact. He should keep up-to-date with his information before he offers criticism.

PROGRESSIVES' ANNUAL MEETING.

At the annual meeting of the Sheffield Progressive Party, Alderman Jackson asked for "three years of power, and we will show Sheffield what we can make of this city." Well, nobody wants to see; they saw in 1935, and the years before. Wooden huts for schools, the old "shambles," and decay generally. His speech was full of what can properly be called "terminological inexactitudes."

MIS-STATEMENTS.

"There was no ripple on the waters of the proposed technical college," said he. Apart from the fact that nobody was free to ripple on a college of any sort, his implication is wrong. What he really means is that he is in the dark, which is true, of course.

Again, "Food-street, one of the most important positions in Sheffield, was a site for rubbish and car parks." Wrong again; the rubbish has been cleared; it existed as slum property in the time of Alderman Jackson's predecessors. No sensible person would prefer ancient and derelict slums to clear spaces—even if they are used as car parks.

NEGLECTING SHEFFIELD.

He dramatically charges us with "deliberately neglecting Sheffield" in the matter of Air Raid Precautions. If he and his friends would attend the committee meetings often, they would find that the job had been quite well done by Labour Party members. Of course, it must be done, but with the rest of us, really did expect the Government to pay the bill before we committed ourselves to it.

EDUCATION.

Unless the local Press has misreported him, he said further that he had "deliberately kept health, education, and public assistance clear of party politics." This is not true, and he knows it is not true. More than that, he either has not read, or does not understand, the policy of the education committee with regard to secondary schools.

But let us consider one or two of his comments. He says that the obvious thing is to "build a new secondary school on the Parson Cross Estate at Haxthorpe to accommodate 650 new scholars," as we had "503 who passed for places in the city's secondary schools last year for whom no places could be found." In any case, you can only take one-fifth of a school's place up with first-year students, or you will have no room for more the second year. Anyway, a school not yet built could hardly accommodate the 503 who passed last year!

THE PROGRAMME.

The programme arranged does provide the maximum additional school places each year till the programme is complete, at the lowest cost to the ratepayers. It is not suggested to accommodate 210 additional girls only at the new Abbotsdale Secondary School, for it was explained to him personally and fully how places for 600 would be secured. As a matter of cold fact, he refuses to leave education out of politics.

In that event, he will have to think out his case a good deal better than he has done this time. He will not get away with it by the usual legal gentleman's device of abusing the other side. We shall, of course, make mistakes—but not so many as Alderman Jackson. Nor the particular mistake of not getting right to the bottom of the facts.

He gets "a good Press," as any leader of the Progressives will always do. But that is a mistake—it is an exposure rather than a report. And, by the way, look at this concluding item in the newspaper account: "The annual report showed that satisfactory progress had been made. . . . What, out in the wilderness, not a solitary gain, no ray of light, not a hope of a victory anywhere, and yet, to the Progressives, it appears as 'satisfactory progress'!"

Standing still, as they are, has always been their idea of progress. And, finally: "The officers were re-elected." Why? They must be in a bad way, if, after continued defeats, they re-elect the old officers. Perhaps nobody else will have the jobs; the rank and file are in full retreat, and the officers alone are manning the last ditch.

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES

ATTERCLIFFE

The Attercliffe Divisional Council are holding a special meeting on Wednesday, May 11th, in the Garth-road Institute, when Mr. J. S. Worrall, the party's delegate to the National Conference, will give a report of the proceedings.

In view of the widespread public interest taken in the decisions of the Party conference, the fact that the conference represents the twenty-first anniversary of the party's history, and the many important matters discussed thereat, the meeting should prove of great interest to all Attercliffe co-operators, to whom a hearty invitation is accorded.

BRIGHTSIDE.

Mr. Harry Fox (accountant, Brightside and Carbrook Society), we regret, was unable to attend on April 2nd, but Councillor H. Wilkinson kindly officiated as speaker. Mr. Fox is hoping to give his address on "The National Defence Tax" at some future date.

The next meeting of the Divisional Council will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 28th, in the Co-operative Institute, Bellhouse-road. As usual, the meeting will be followed by a social, admission 3d.

Burgreave Women's Section are continuing their weekly meetings, Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m., in the Burgreave Vestry Hall. Secretary: Mrs. E. Yelland.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party meetings during April were: 7th, an address on "Town Planning," by Councillor H. Slack; 14th, an old-time dance in the large institute; 21st,

Councillor J. Holland, J.P. was the speaker, and on the 28th, Mr. C. S. Darvell spoke on his experiences in Spain—a very interesting account of the heroic fight the Republicans are making to retain freedom and democracy. There will be a dance in the large institute, Thursday, May 28th, and on the 12th Councillor H. Slack will speak on the new Factory Act. The Women's Section continue with large attendances. April 4th, a social was held; 11th, Councillor A. Mappin spoke on "National Health Insurance"; 18th, no meeting (Easter Monday) and on the 25th, Councillor H. Slack spoke on the "Co-ordination of Health Services." Programme for May: 2nd, Councillor J. W. Holland, J.P.; 9th, Manquein Parade, arranged by the drapery manager, Brightside and Carbrook Society; 16th, an address by Lady Mabel Smith; 23rd, Dr. Esher (Director, Child Guidance Clinic) will be the speaker, and on the 30th, Mrs. Bottom (secretary) will give her report of the party's national conference.

WISEWOOD.

May commences the summer syllabus of the Wedley and Wisewood Section, when only two meetings per month will be held; second Wednesday for the City Council report, and the fourth Wednesday a speaker will be booked. The next meeting will, therefore, be held Wednesday, May 11th, at 7.45 p.m., in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road.

NEEPSEND.

The Neepsend Party held their usual meeting for City Council matters on April 13th, when Alderman J. Harwit was the speaker. Members are asked to note that a business meeting will be held

on the first Wednesday in the month, and the City Council report will be given on the second Wednesday. Meetings held at 8 p.m. in the Co-operative Institute, Manners-street.

The May programme of the Women's Section meetings is: 2nd, pie supper; Section meetings: W. R. Stokes will be 9th, Councillor F. W. R. Stokes will be 16th, Councillor J. H. Bingham, J.P. (secretary, Brightside and Carbrook Society); 23rd, the section will consider the Brighton conference report; 30th, Mrs. Ference report; 6th, Mrs. Ference report; 13th, Councillor C. Gavigan, J.P., will give an illustrated lecture on "The Entry of the Germans into Austria." Secretary: Mrs. E. Watson, 125, Fowler-street.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Section report: "We are concluding our winter session in a cheerful vein, having had better attended meetings and greater interest shown than at previous sessions." April 14th, Alderman T. H. Watkin, J.P., gave an interesting address on "City Council Work." Meetings will be held on the second Thursdays in the month until October. Special meetings may be called if necessary. During the summer a propaganda campaign is being held, which will comprise open-air meetings, essay, and to attend some of the fourth meetings, &c. It is hoped that the Right vassing, &c. Mr. G. A. Holder, 84, Southey Hall-road, will be pleased to receive early application.

The Women's Section will continue with their weekly meetings on Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m., in the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue. Programme for May: 4th, open; 11th, business; 18th, an address by Alderman T. H.

Watkins, J.P., and 25th, Mrs. Jackson will be the speaker.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section had to postpone their business meeting on April 4th in view of the visit of Sir Norman Angell, the members attending the City Hall in large numbers. Councillor S. H. Marshall, J.P., was the speaker on the 11th; 18th (Easter Monday), no meeting, and a waist drive was held on the 25th. This ends the winter syllabus. There will, however, be a business meeting on May 2nd, after which monthly meetings will be held, and members circlearised accordingly.

The Women's Section are continuing their weekly meetings during May, 5th, a social is to be held; 12th, Councillor R. Fisher will speak on "Poor Law"; 19th, Mr. A. E. Brindley will give an address on "Do We Know?"; 26th will be devoted to reports.

Meetings held in the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Institute, Napoleon-street.

PRESIDENT OF HOSPITAL.

At the annual meeting of the Industrial Orthopaedic Society, held at Unity House, Euston-road, London, Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., was again unanimously re-elected president of the society, which maintains the Labour hospital at Manor House.

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TALKING SHOP!

Councillor J. W. Holland and a few of his audience inside the new shop.



"The development of the society was evidenced by the opening of that beautiful branch in that growing neighbourhood. The premises were equal to the best the society had produced."

These views were expressed by Alderman T. E. Watkins (president of the Brightside and Carbrook Society) at the opening of the society's fifty-fourth grocery branch in Teynham-road, Shire-

diffe, Sheffield, on Friday, April 8th. There was a good attendance of members, and Alderman Watkins, who presided, was supported by members of the board of management, members of the education committee, and officials, including Councillor J. H. Bingham (secretary). Several former-members of the board of management were also present.

Alderman Watkins pointed out that the benefits of the society were all dependent upon the extent of the individual purchases of the members. The society's purchases per member worked out at £32 per annum.

Members should realize the far-reaching effect of their purchases, for it meant increased production and the giving of employment through the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Councillor J. W. Holland (board of management) said that the shop they were now opening was part of beautiful green fields a short time ago.

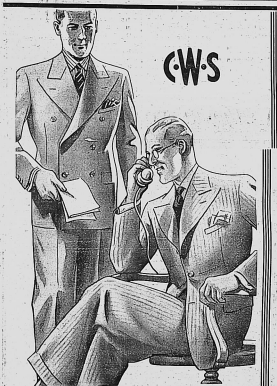
In the five years since he joined the board of management he had seen wonderful development. The society's annual sales in that period had gone up from £5,206,000 to £1,949,680, an increase of 543,000; the share capital from £143,717 to £859,731; the loan capital from £77,8 to £133,216; and the membership from 59,300 to 72,739.

In that period the average weekly purchases per member had gone up from 25s. 1d. to 22s. 9d., and the dividend from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 0d. in the period.

He pointed out the benefits of co-operation in finding work for thousands of people, all members of their own trade union, and in helping forward the educational and social life of members and

providing an international alliance which should prove one of the greatest of peace movements.

The new branch was a splendid shop, thanks to the excellent design and work of Mr. H. Webster (architect), Mr. T. Gilbert (clerk of works), the society's own works department, which had constructed the building.



READY TO WEAR SUITS

From our large range we can supply every fit in the newest styles and smartest patterns

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HAYLOCK WORKS, KETTERING

THE MEMBER FOR HILLSBOROUGH All Parties Pay Tribute

BELOW we print four comments from different sources indicative of Mr. Alexander's general capacity and popularity.

"Sheffield Telegraph" ("London Day by Day"), March 21st—

"Many M.P.'s wish that Mr. A. V. Alexander made more speeches on foreign affairs for the Opposition. It is only a few weeks since Mr. Alexander awoke the House with a magnificent winding-up speech in foreign debates."

"It was the most effective speech on this subject from the Opposition for months. And it was an even better speech because Mr. Alexander, on the spur of the moment, abandoned his carefully-prepared notes and took up a point of Mr. Chamberlain's on the League. He spoke for nearly an hour—and interest never flagged for a minute."

"Mr. Alexander's lucidness and presence being the flattest discussion to vital life."

Mr. Robert Austin Butler, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (in the House of Commons, March 14th)—

"I should like to welcome the very thoughtful and sincere speech of the Right Hon. Gentleman the Member for Hillsborough (Mr. Alexander). We must acknowledge that in his approach to the subject he was perfectly sincere, and that he brought a great deal of thought to bear upon the serious difficulties which are before us."

"Daily Independent" ("Talk of London"), April 6th—

"I have heard on all sides praise for Mr. A. V. Alexander's speech on the Foreign Affairs debate in the House yesterday. . . . A. V. seldom indulges in generalities, and always gives facts in plenty. His speech last night was weighty in matter and in argument, and whether you agree with his point of view or not, it was at least worthy of the importance of the subject debated."

"The more I see of his work in the House, the more convinced I am that he is one of the three outstanding figures in His Majesty's Opposition. I do not say this on grounds of local patriotism. . . . but because A. V. is so much more than a propagandist."

His contributions to debates are always of a serious character, carrying evidence of really deep thought, and constructive thinking, two qualities which are essential but rare in debate to-day."

The Right Hon. Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer (in the House of Commons, April 29th)—

"I should like to express the appreciation of the Government to Mr. Alexander for having been good enough to arrange for the organisation and personnel of the Co-operative Wholesale Society to be utilised by the Government on the same footing as the organisation of the two large firms I have mentioned."

(The statement was received with loud cheers from every part of the House.)

YOU WILL LIKE "MYLYTA" UNDERWEAR

Produced in a variety of charming styles, of moderate prices

Manufactured by the Makers of the

"ASHFIELD" BRAND Hosiery and Underwear

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

OLD-AGE PENSIONS INADEQUATE

On April 14th, in the House of Commons, Mrs. Hardie drew attention to the plight of old-age pensioners. Many men on reaching the age of sixty-five, she said, have to give up their employment, and are expected to live on 20s. a week if their wives have not reached the age of sixty-five. Most of these men have worked for fifty years, and could not save sufficient to help them in their old age because their wages were too low. The plight of women of the working classes was equally bad. As a result of inadequate pensions, old people were driven to seek for public assistance, which they regarded as humiliating. When they applied for this assistance they were subjected to the Means Test investigations. Mrs. Hardie contrasted the position of old age pensions in this country with the generous provision made in New

Zealand, where, under a Labour Government, a man at sixty-five receives £1 2s. 6d. a week, and a woman at sixty receives the same amount.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, replying to this appeal, again intimated that the Government will do nothing to improve the conditions of old-age pensioners.

FRANCO RULE IS DICTATORSHIP

The fact that Franco's objective is to make the whole of Spain a Fascist State was emphasised in an article published in "The Times" on April 21st. The article stated that the main object of government in that part of Spain held by Franco have now been functioning long enough to give a clear idea of the system under which—if Franco wins—Spain will be ruled. "In a comparatively short time," the article added, "a totalitarian structure of surprising completeness has been evolved. . . . Nationalist Spain is a dictatorship."

LABOUR'S PLEA FOR INQUIRY INTO PENSION GRIEVANCES: GOVERNMENT PERSISTS IN ITS REFUSAL

In the House of Commons on April 14th, on the motion for the Easter adjournment, the Labour Party raised the question of the provision and administration of pensions, with particular reference to the grievances of ex-servicemen and their dependants. Mr. P. B. Simpson voiced Labour's demand for an inquiry into these grievances, and at the outset said it was ironical that while preparations were made for another war, the country had not liquidated its social liabilities to those who fought in the last war.

Commenting on the meagre results of efforts by M.P.s to secure redress of pension grievances, Mr. Simpson said the explanation was the narrow conception by the Ministry of Pensions of the claims of applicants and a reluctance to give the benefit of the doubt. Experts and specialists were employed, but they were interested in economy and a fine adherence to schedules rather than in a broad approach to the human needs of the applicants.

At the end of 1937 there were 442,337 disabled pensioners. Of these only 6.4 per cent. received 100 per cent. pensions; 24.2 per cent. received 30 to 40 per cent. pensions; and 48 per cent. received pensions of 20 to 30 per cent. The average cost of war pensions in Great Britain in the years 1920 to 1929 was nearly £77,000,000. The estimated cost for 1938 is £39,500,000, which is nearly £1,600,000 less than in the previous year.

BRITISH LEGION'S REPORT.

Mr. Simpson pointed out that the British Legion, following a broadly-based and careful investigation, has asked for a Government inquiry into the whole question. He quoted the considered view of the Legion's Committee of Inquiry, that "there are a number of ex-servicemen whose health has broken down as a result of the rigours of war, although it is not possible to substantiate, by medical

sequence, a direct connection with such service."

There should be more concern for these solid human facts, said Mr. Simpson, and less about technicalities. He cited two typical cases of hardship. One was that of a man who worked for some years after he left the Forces and then secured a maximum pension for pulmonary tuberculosis. He lived twelve years and then died of this disease. But his widow was refused a pension on the claim of the Ministry that his pension disability was not a contributory factor in causing his death.

The second case was that of a man who in 1920 had a life pension of 50 per cent. for the loss of his right eye, and who seventeen years later, lost the sight of the other eye. The medical experts declared that there was no connection between the loss of the right eye, and the loss of the left eye, and no extra pension was granted.

EX-SERVICEMEN AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Dealing with the argument that if pensions are not adequate, ex-servicemen can always fall back on public assistance, Mr. Simpson quoted the view of the British Legion Committee that "ex-servicemen are strongly averse to applying for public assistance." He added that there was another aspect of this question, and that was whether the burden should be shifted on to the local rates or be borne nationally. He mentioned a recent conference in Manchester, at which it was stated that there are in that city 400 disabled ex-servicemen in receipt of public assistance because their pensions are insufficient for their maintenance.

The investigations of the British Legion revealed the fact that there are at least 95,000 ex-servicemen who are unable to work through incapacity, and who are in various stages of need of assistance. In spite of these facts, the Prime Minister has refused the Legion's demand for an inquiry.

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... and so is his Mother

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**"QUEEN OF THE ROAD"
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Every detail is of the best workmanship, Coachwork, Upholstery, Springing, and Finish.

Roominess and safety are also very important factors. All Cars have a bed length of at least thirty inches, and all are fitted with foot-operated safety brake.



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EGGLESALL ROAD,
Opposite "The Arcade."

Dividend
1/10 in the £



MODEL 11 Reversible handle, folding car. All-weather model. Bed length, 22 inches 22/6
Other Folders . . . from 15/-

MODEL 131 Pramette, specially designed front to drop when sitting position is required. Reversible and folding handle. Safety brake 22/6



"THE ARCADE," EGGLESALL ROAD

on the up and UP

PROFITTEERING, not mountaineering, is the subject under review, because these are the days of rising costs-of-living (not by any means to be confused with rising standards of living). At this time, when taking advantage of higher price tendencies is proving so easy and so lucrative to the unscrupulous, it is opportune to state once again the fact that the man in the street (and the woman in the home) can still buy C.W.S. goods from their Co-operative Society with every safety. They can feel secure in the knowledge that **THE C.W.S. DOES NOT EXIST FOR PROFIT BUT SERVICE.**

Therefore:

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2. Materials are the best always.
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Advertisement of the CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY LTD.

RECORD YEAR FOR NEW ZEALAND TRADE

When Mr. Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand's Labour Government, addressed a public meeting on the occasion of the annual conference of the New Zealand Labour Party on April 19th, he was able to report another year of real achievement. The public accounts last year showed a surplus of about £800,000, and the National Debt was less than at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Savage added that all records for trade expansion and prosperity had been broken. Though taxation was about £37,000,000, the amount directly returned to the people in social services was £18,000,000, and £12,000,000 was used for the public debt service.

Taxation in New Zealand has increased by £20,000,000 in the past two years, but against this Mr. Savage put the fact that the aggregate of private incomes is increased by £37,000,000 in the same period. Another proof of real prosperity, he said, was the fact that production had increased in value by £39,000,000 in two years.

Since the Labour Government was returned two years ago, unemployment has been reduced from 54,000 to less than 75,000, the latter figure including 8,000 persons unfit for employment.

SHEFFIELD'S WEEK
MAY 7th to 14th

WHAT does this mean? What is the International Peace Campaign? And what is Sheffield going to do?

The International Peace Campaign is a way of showing how much ordinary people in all countries care about Peace and how wide a basis of agreement there is among them on the means by which Peace is to be attained.

In England the campaign is supported by people prominent in every political party, by the churches, by a great number of important societies, which know that their aims will be raised by a similar war, and by all branches of the Peace Movement. In Sheffield the campaign has the patronage of the Lord Mayor and a very wide basis of public and personal support.

This is the Four-Point Programme of Peace on which all these persons and societies in forty-three countries are agreed.

- (1) Recognition of the Sanctity of Treaty Obligations.
- (2) Reduction and limitation of armaments by international agreement, and the suppression of trade in arms.
- (3) Strengthening of the League of Nations for the prevention and stopping of war by the organization of

Collective Security and Mutual Assistance.

(4) Establishment within the framework of the League of Nations of effective machinery for remedying international conditions which might lead to war.

The faith of those organizing this campaign is that if man is sufficiently determined on anything including his own salvation from war, he can get it.

And what is Sheffield going to do? The Sheffield Committee of the I.P.C. have issued a programme giving details of Peace Week which commences on Saturday, May 7th, with a procession and pageant. Special Peace Services in the Cathedral and in churches of all denominations, City Hall mass meeting, Women's Rally, Youth Peace Meeting, film shows and Peace plays, inter-school discussion, Peace slogan competition, and scholars' competition.

All particulars are contained in the programme (price 2d), which can be obtained from the I.P.C. Office, 24, St. James' Row, Co-operative Party Office, 27, Bank-street, and from the Peace Shop, 68, Fargate.

PUT THIS IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT

The Imperial Tobacco Company (of Great Britain and Ireland) is making no change in its final distribution. The year's allocations indicate a rise in net profits of about £13,900 over 1935-36.

The directors recommend a final dividend of 7½ per cent, and a bonus of 10 per cent, both free of tax.

This again makes, with the 7½ per cent. tax free interim distribution, a total of 25 per cent, net on the £17,953,000 of ordinary capital, the rate to which it was raised last year from 24 per cent. tax free.

A sum of £250,000 is appropriated to general reserve, as in 1935-36. The fund will thus be raised to £7,000,000.

The carry-forward is £2,500,000, higher at £1,445,000. Allowing for the £143,345 extra in the amount brought in, the figures indicate a net profit for the year to October 31st 1937 of £10,720,200, an increase of about £113,000 over the peak attained in the previous twelve months.—"Financial Times," Jan. 19th, 1938.

"YOUR PEACE"

"Your Peace" (the Peace edition of the "Your Britain" series, issued by the Labour Party) is a beautifully-illustrated brochure giving amazing facts on war, and containing a world map relat-

ing to the present international situation. All co-operative and Labour supporters should possess a copy. Copies 2d. each, or 9d. per dozen, from the Co-operative Party Office, 27, Bank-street, Sheffield, 1.

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Full details of these facilities, together with all information regarding Tram and Bus services are given in the time table, which is issued free and obtainable at Moorhead Enquiry Office; Road and Rail Enquiry Office, L.M.S. Station; and all Depots.
(Postage 1½d.)

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Situate in the beautiful Derwent Valley
Route 49. Buses from Leopold Street
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One of the most picturesque towns in Derbyshire
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Fares: Single, 1/5 Return, 2/8
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Within easy walking distance of Chatsworth Park
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Buses from L.M.S. Station and Moorhead
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The Peak District Spa Celebrated Thermal Springs
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The Peakland village with historic castle and great caverns
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Division Street, Sheffield, April, 1938
H. WATSON, Secretary

THE 54th

THE LATEST BUT BY NO MEANS THE LAST

We have just opened a further new Grocery Branch at Teynham Road, Shirecliffe. This is now our fifty-fourth branch and we've many others under consideration or at present nearing completion. Even so, we are hardly keeping pace with the growth of our membership and our steadily increasing turnover. At the present time—and we are constantly expanding—we have a total of well over 75,000, members and we calculate that our turnover, for the current year, will comfortably exceed the two million pound mark. Of this we feel certain.

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