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22/- PER YEAR MORE FROM WORKING-CLASS HOMES

Co-operative M.P.s Protest Against the Increased Tea Duty

Mr. D. Chater, Co-operative M.P. for North-East Bethnal Green, moved an Amendment in the House of Commons to the Resolution for increase of Customs Duty on Tea. We print below the speech of the Co-operative Member for Hillsborough, the Rt. Hon. A. F. Alexander, M.P., who strongly supported the Amendment.

Mr. Alexander: "I am sure that the Chancellor must have been a little surprised that the debate on this Amendment has occupied so much of the time of the House. But I think that on reflection the right hon. Gentleman will see that, whatever else may be said about his Budget, there is a very strong feeling of resentment at the attempt which he has made further to mulek the common people of the country—the poorer sections—in this additional burden.

INCOME TAX CONCESSIONS

"To start with, I feel that it is quite unnecessary for the House to be asked to-night to approve this additional burden upon the necessities of the poor when the Chancellor is making in the same Budget important Income Tax concessions to profit makers. In the evening paper to-night I have seen another example of a company announcing its final distribution of dividends, which makes a total dividend of nearly 90 per cent. for the year, and there is also the promise of an issue of 5 per cent. preference shares of £1 for every four deferred shares of £1 now held. That company, under the Chancellor's Budget, will be given double the allowance for wear and tear of its machinery in the coming year." (Interjection by Sir John Simon: "The last increase was 10 per cent. of the cost, and the addition is 50 per cent. of that figure. That does not make it double.")

Mr. Alexander: "I ought to have said the allowance for wear and tear is quite prepared to say 'double the increase,' because the Chancellor is also doubling the increase in the Tea Duty put on two years ago, and as an exact set-off, he is doubling the increase for wear and tear to large companies. It was quite unnecessary for that extra allowance to be made, and especially if he would require in those circumstances to put this extra tax on tea.

BURDEN HEAVIER ON THE POOR

"Much has been said by hon.

Members like the hon. Member for Bolton (Sir J. Haslam), who has experience of trade, as to what the effect would be. It is only fair to say that long experience of the use of a Tea Duty as a means of raising revenue proves quite conclusively that the movement in the market prices follows exactly the average amount of duty imposed, and that, in fact the average dealer in the trade does not profit over the duty. I have all the figures for the last sixteen years. But when the hon. Member for Bolton said that the cost to the average consumer is only 2s. per year—say for the average household."

Sir J. Haslam: "Of four." Mr. Alexander: "Of four—he is very much out of touch with the situation. I am convinced from inquiries up and down the country, that an average of ¼ lb. of the commodity for a family of four is not only general but is often exceeded. When he takes into account supplies for hotels, restaurants, and the like, it only emphasises that the rich section of the population drink far less tea per head than the working class. I was brought up among the working class, and I know that, day after day, week after week, the only beverage in the household is tea. They do not have the variety of beverages that the rich have, they do not have Ovaltine at night, and they do not have liqueurs as the rich have. It is tea, tea, tea." (Further interjection by Sir J. Haslam.)

Mr. Alexander: "What I was saying to the hon. Member was that our experience showed that it was the richest section of the population who drank less tea per head and that that accounted for the difference."

"I come to the actual burden of the Tea Duty. If you take ¼ lb. of tea for the ordinary household, with the tax on foreign tea at 8d., the average of the home cannot be taken at less than 7d. You have therefore to pay three-quarters of 7d. in the pound of this new duty every week. Instead of the burden being about 4s. as an increase,

there will be a burden of 22s. or 23s. per annum for every household of a family of four.

"What is more to the point—and the hon. Gentleman the Member for Bolton knows as well as anybody who has experience of the food trade—is this a superimposition upon the impost made

by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer and previous Chancellors upon the people.

ELECTION PLEDGE BROKEN

"I have gone into the position of food taxation under the National Government during the last five years. When the right hon. Gentleman the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, in company with his colleague who is now in the other House, Lord Runciman, made an appeal to the nation in 1931 as a section of the old Liberal Party supporting the National Government, they pledged themselves specifically against the taxation of food, but

to-day the food taxation per annum under the National Government is already over £40,000,000, and with the addition of the Tea Duty, it will be £42,500,000. There is not a working-class family of four who will not be paying by the end of this year, £10 per annum at least in taxation.

"When you consider that, in many cases, that £10 will come from a working-class family with a total income of from £30 to £35 a year, it is not something special, as was said this afternoon, but it is an outrage.

"I say that especially, because the Chancellor could have avoided this particular increase by simply not giving an unnecessary additional allowance in respect of wear and tear. We were told in the Budget speech that the Chancellor of the Exchequer expects to get from this 'additional 1d. in the pound on the Tea Duty about £7,500,000, and in a full year £3,250,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer expects to give out of his income tax yield just that sum in respect of additional allowance for wear and tear, and to give it to industry whether they need it or not.

"Therefore, I think we have a particularly strong case in respect of the Tea Duty.

COMPARISON OF PRICES

"With regard to the price of the commodity and how the Tea Duty affects the consumer, I have taken out a list of prices of the common tea which could find a good sale. I have taken the figures from the year 1922, when the Tea Duty stood at 10d. on Empire and 1s. on foreign tea. The retail price was then 2s. 2d. for that common tea. There was a gradual reduction in the

retail price according to the fall in the duty, until it was abolished in the year 1926. When the duty was abolished in 1926 the price was 7s. 3d."

(First Colonel Caville: "In 1922 the full duty was 8d., and the preferential duty was five-sixths of that sum.") Mr. Alexander: "I do not know where the Financial Secretary has got his figures, but mine are taken from pretty good bookkeeping entries. I do not think that the interruption was relevant. These figures are taken from our books, and we are the largest sellers of tea in the world and the largest payers of duty out of bond to the Exchequer. Therefore, we know something about the subject. My point is that from 1922 until 1929 the retail price steadily went down. If we take the year after there was no payment of duty, we could get good common tea in 1931 at 2s. and 20d., and later in that year it was even down to 8d. I am told that in that year there was a reasonable but not a high quality of common tea on sale at Woodroffe's at 6d. per pound. It may have been that that particular parcel sold at that price was an attractive parcel, put up for the purpose of attracting other custom, but it is true to say that throughout the tea trade in the year when there was an absence of duty one could get drinkable tea at 8d. per pound. We shall not be able to get this year, with the rise in duty, tea of that quality at less than 2s. 2d."

THE CONSUMER PAYS EVERY TIME

"This is the measure of the difference in the burden that the household has to pay. It is not a question as to whether it is 1d. or 2d. more now, but it is a question of the policy of the Government in gradually raising the price to the consumer from 8d. in the pound in 1931 to 2s. 2d. now. That is the case that we have to put to our constituents in the country as to the effect of the Government's policy upon prices. We are always told that there is no guarantee that the increased duties are going to be paid by the consumer. I remember that a few months ago, when the question of the cattle subsidy was before us, the basis of finance was changed and it was put on a recoverable duty basis, it was said that the duty of 3d. in the pound would not be paid by the consumer but by the cattle producer in Argentina. We all know that since that duty was put on,

(Continued on page 2)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATORS' DAY - Saturday, July 2nd

GRAND FETE LADY MABEL SMITH

To be Opened at 2-30 p.m. by

CHAIRMAN: ALDERMAN T. H. WATKINS, J.P.

Maypole and Folk Dances by Co-operative Children; Crowning Circle Quen, Children's Sports, Fancy Dress Parade, Demonstration by Sheffield "Keep Fit" Association. All the fun of the fair and Novelty Stalls arranged by the Guilds, Public Dancing, Music by St. Margaret's Band.

Refreshments supplied by the "B. & C." Cafe Department.

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EVERYBODY INVITED.

PARLIAMENT AND CO-OPERATIVE TAX

In 1933 the "National" Government violated the considered opinion of statesmen of all parties, the decisions of the courts and the evidence of Inland Revenue authorities by altering the law to make co-operative societies pay income tax on funds which were not income.

Last year the Government again raised the Co-operative Movement by once more violating the principle of mutuality and imposing the N.D.C. The National Co-operative Authority has decided to have an annual conference in the 1938 Finance Bill brought before the House of Commons, which will exempt co-operative societies from further injustice. Meetings are being held in constituencies in order to obtain support of Members of Parliament.

OUR SEVENTIETH CONGRESS

Nearly two thousand delegates, representing the 8,000,000 members of British co-operative societies, met in Scarborough on June 6th for the seventieth Co-operative Congress.

Representatives from the International Labour Office, from British Government Departments, and from overseas co-operative movements, will also attend.

In the introduction to the Co-operative Union's Annual Report, which is the principal item of discussion at the Congress, the Central Board states:—"Co-operative success in the last year owes more to its principles than its environment. Our greatest asset is not to be found in our ledgers or titles to real estates, but in the good will and confidence which have been inspired by our ninety years' adherence to the principles of equity and justice, and in our spirit of tolerance in our social life."

"Time and again in this year of rising prices, the Co-operative Union has had to intervene to protect consumers—whether co-operators or not—from unjustified exploitation. The nation ought to be grateful for this unaccounted benefit by the only movement adequately organised to perform such a service. Fortunately, there is, in the working-class quarters at any rate, a growing realisation that consumers' interests are as important as those of organised wage-earners."

"The Co-operative Union's work is actually a public service, indispensable to the economical organisation of domestic supply, and the fact that co-operative trade is conducted on a non-profit basis should entitle us to special consideration at the hands of the legislature and the Government. The latter, however, is indolently wedded to the claims of profit and privilege."

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY NOTES

ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held a meeting in the Garth-road Institute on May 17th, when the secretary (Mr. J. S. Worrall) reported on the National Conference at Brighton.

BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Divisional Council held a meeting at the Shiregreen Inn on May 28th, when Mr. J. C. Loftsbrough, delegate to the National Conference, gave a detailed report on the proceedings; the meeting was followed by a social evening. Apart from the selection conference for municipal candidate there will be no further meetings during the summer period unless special occasion should necessitate, and notification will be forwarded to all members. Secretary: Mrs. F. Ward, 58, Sney-Avenue.

BURNGRAVE.

The Burngrave Women's Section report good attendances at their meetings in May. Speakers included Mr. C. S. Darvill, on "Topics of To-day"; Mrs. Yelland, on "Child Life 100 Years Ago"; and Councillor J. Cobley reporting on the party's annual conference. Programme for June: 1st, an address by Mr. G. Fisher; 8th (Wednesday), no meeting; 15th, City Council report by Councillor (Mrs.) Canning; 22nd, monthly social; 29th, an address by Mr. A. Beech, of the Brightside and Carbrook Board of management. Meetings held in the Burngrave Vestry Hall, Wednesdays, at 7-30 p.m.

HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party have given up their usual weekly meetings for the summer except at special club. A benefit dance was held on May 6th, when the total proceeds were given to the Markham Pit Disaster Fund.

The Women's Section, which meets in the Co-operative Institute, Middlewood-road, on Mondays, at 7-30 p.m., have had well-attended meetings during May; 2nd, Councillor J. W. Holland, J.P., was the speaker; 9th, the Brightside and Carbrook drapery department arranged a fashion display to which there was an extra large attendance; 17th, Lady Mabel Smith spoke on the subject of "Peace"; 24th, Dr. Ester dealt with the problems of Child Life as revealed through the Child Guidance Clinic; 30th, the annual conference report was given by Mrs. C. Bottom, the secretary. There will be no meeting on Whit-Monday, but on Whit-Tuesday a ramble and field-day at Bradfield has been arranged, members meet at the Institute at 11 a.m. June 27th, social; 29th, open debate; 29th, Mrs. Walker will be the speaker.

WADSLY AND WISEWOOD.

The Wadslay and Wisewood section of the Hillsborough Co-operative Party, which meets in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road, reports successful meetings during May. On the 4th,

the members spent an enjoyable evening at a cinema show given by the Polytechnic Touring Association; a dance followed. During the proceedings Mr. Ballard, the Party organiser, gave a short address. May 17th, Councillor R. Fisher gave the City Council report; 25th, Mrs. Cunningham, of the Sheffield Women's Welfare Clinic, gave an interesting address on the work of that organisation.

During the summer, meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. June 8th, the City Council report; and 22nd, Miss Eileen Button, president of the University Socialist Club, will be the speaker.

NEEPSEND.

The Neepsend Section reports a well-attended meeting on May 17th, when Alderman Hewart gave the City Council report. A further meeting will be held on June 1st, when delegates' reports from various conferences will be considered. June 8th, the City Council report will be given by Councillor R. Fisher.

The Women's Section, which meets in the Co-operative Institute, Manners-street, on Mondays, have arranged the following programme for June: 6th (Whit-Monday), no meeting; 13th, conference reports; 20th, a supper; 27th, Councillor Gill will be the speaker.

SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southay and Norwood section reports a meeting held on May 17th, when reports on the National Conference at Brighton were given by Messrs. Bottom and Pheasey, with particular emphasis on the president's proposal for a United Peace Alliance. The outing to Dovedale on June 26th has been cancelled. A propaganda campaign is to be organised during the summer months, particulars of which will be given later, meantime, volunteers are asked to state the nights upon which they will be at liberty for this work. Secretary: Mr. G. A. Holder, 44, Southay Hill-road.

Women's Section meetings held in the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue, (Wednesdays, at 3-30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. Allen, 163, Everingham-road.

Programme for June: 1st, Annual Conference Report by Mrs. C. Bottom; 15th, Mrs. F. Redback on "Work of a J.P."; 22nd, Social; 29th, to be arranged. Members wishing to take part in the Annual Trip on July 17th to Scarborough should inform the secretary as soon as possible.

SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall section have commenced their summer programme, when monthly instead of weekly meetings will be held, on the first Monday of the month, at 7-30 p.m., in the Co-operative Institute, Napier-street.

The Women's Section, which meets

on Thursdays, at 2-30 p.m., are continuing with weekly meetings. May 5th an enjoyable waist drive was held, the proceeds given to the Sheffield Women's Welfare Clinic. May 12th, Councillor R. Fisher spoke on "Poor Law", tracing the history of relief of the poor from the days of relief to the present. May 19th, Mr. E. A. Bradburn spoke on "Do We Know?" stating that catastrophes awakened the human mind, that war, plagues, and famine were often the only means of making some people think. May 26th was devoted to reports. Programme for June: 2nd and 9th (Whit-Monday), no meetings; 16th Miss Z. M. Isaac, F.R.D., on "Women of Palestine"; 23rd, Councillor J. F. Williams on "City Council Work"; 30th, a social.

KING SEES CO-OPERATIVE EXHIBITS

A MAGNIFICENT show has been staged by co-operators in Scotland for the Empire Exhibition, which is being held in Glasgow until October.

The King, who opened the Exhibition on May 3rd, saw the co-operative exhibits in the Palace of Industry. His Majesty was escorted round the various stands of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society by the president, Mr. Neil S. Beaton, who is also a vice-president of the Exhibition. The King saw the working looms, brush-making machines, and the display of productions, and had Mr. R. W. Leckie, secretary of the society, and Mr. W. Gallacher, a director, presented to him. Mr. Beaton was complimented on the marvellous organisation of the movement.

In addition to the C.W.S., the Co-operative Union, the United Co-operative Baking Society, and the English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society are "on show." The S.C.W.S. and the U.C.W.S. have organised a cake at the Exhibition to honour some of the thousands of co-operators who visit "Empirex" with meals.

BRIGHTON JUBILEE

BRIGHTON, apart from being a world-famous holiday resort, is also a renowned co-operative centre. The society has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Mr. C. R. Attlee, M.P., Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., and Sir William Brindshaw attended the demonstrations of loyalty to the society.

Co-operative history, however, goes far back beyond the establishment of the present society. When the Glasgow folios led from Brighton, Co-operation came in. Experimental societies were formed according to the ideas of Robert Owen. Then Dr. William King made a study of co-operation, and published an early co-operative journal which greatly influenced later co-operative development.

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'AT HOME'

A "family group" at the furniture exhibition of the British Co-operative Society's Jubilee exhibition, which was opened on May 17th. Sir William Bradburn, Mr. C. R. Attlee, M.P., Mr. Alexander, M.P., Mr. C. W. Cobbel, J.P., who presided on opening in the Dams, and Mr. C. R. Attlee, M.P.



His eyes were always so tired—



Until he got his glasses changed any form of eye work bothered him. His eyes hurt, his head ached, and his forehead was creased in a perpetual frown. In fact, he had every symptom of eyestrain . . . then he was advised to have his eyes examined. He admits it was the best thing he ever did, for now he can do long stretches of tedious, close work without the slightest difficulty. Properly fitted glasses may help you, too. Why not consult us, for at the City Stores we have just opened an Optical Department on the Ground Floor. This Department has the most

advanced and modern equipment and is under the personal supervision of Mr. J. C. Nicholson, F.B.O.A. (Hons.), Honours Fellow of the British Optical Association. Every branch of optical work will be undertaken under the National Health Insurance Scheme, and Optical prescriptions from Hospitals or Doctors will be accurately dispensed. If your eyes trouble you, or you feel your glasses need changing, you can't do better than consult Mr. Nicholson. Why not ring Sheffield 23371 and book an appointment?

INTERNATIONAL 'CO-OPERATIVE DAY'

SATURDAY, JULY 2nd

July 2nd is Co-operative Day. In 1938 the sixteenth celebration takes place in Great Britain and in the many far-off lands where the co-operative movement is established.

Millions of people the world over will rejoice in the fact that they are members of co-operative societies, for they know that each society is making a contribution in establishing a new social order of peace and justice. The co-operative movement is translating the ordinary action of the purchaser of goods into a definite and constructive action towards a better social order.

These ordinary and everyday actions when performed by co-operators take on a new significance. They are linked with the principles of democracy, of economic justice for the worker and consumer, of making capital the servant and not the master. Co-operation is such an easy way of solving social problems that its importance is lost sight of.

Great Britain is the home of co-operation, and it is fitting that the occasion of Co-operative Day should be observed with enthusiasm and sincerity.

There are places in Europe where liberty has been banished, and where the co-operative movement has survived

the threats of dictators, the people are not free to celebrate the occasion. That should make those nations which still enjoy some measure of freedom more determined to make their celebration this year greater than ever.

On July 2nd let all rejoice in co-operation, the great middle way to peace and prosperity.

SHEFFIELD'S CELEBRATION

The education committees of the two Sheffield Co-operative Societies have made full arrangements for the great day.

The Brightside and Carbrook celebration will be held in Hillsborough Park, to be opened at 2.30 p.m. by Lady Mabel Smith, and the Sheffield and Ecclesall will celebrate in Graves Park, commencing at 2.45 p.m. Both will take the form of a gala, including Maypole and Folk Dancing by co-operative children, crowning of the "Circle" Queen, fancy dress-parade, children's sports, "Keep Fit" display, novelty stalls, public dancing on the green, &c.

Arrangements have been made at both locations for the supply of teas and refreshments. Everybody invited; admission free.

RENTS TO RISE TWO MISCHIEVOUS BILLS

Higher rents! That is to be the next contribution of the so-called "National" (really capitalist) Government to the cost-of-living problem of the age.

The Rent Restriction legislation will decontrol 400,000 houses in England, Wales, 50,000 in Scotland. The only object is to control to give landlords freedom to impoverish their tenants.

At the same time, the Government's Housing Bill will have the effect, either of raising rents or of increasing them. This is so, because the Bill decreases from 1/5 to 1/6, down to a mere 1/2 to 1, the proportion of slum clearance cost borne by the Treasury.

These two Bills, the one to withdraw the protection of Rent Restriction and the other to reduce the Treasury's contribution to the cost of housing, are a further attack by Toryism on the social services of the nation—services which make working-class life sweeter than it would otherwise be.

Worst of all, the effects of the Government's housing legislation will be to subsidise the building of land and farm cottages. The field farm cottage is a piece of intolerable tyranny—it enables the farmer to dominate the lives of his workmen, land and stock.

One of the last acts of the Labour Government in 1937 was to pass the Housing (Rural Authorities) Act, which in a very short time would have provided 400,000 low-rented cottages for farm workers—the State relieving the local authority, where necessary, of all loss.

This Act was killed by the Tory "National" Government after only 1,000 cottages had been built—why? Because farmers did not want their own to live in Council houses, where the men would no longer be under their thumb?

WAGES AND PRICES CHALLENGE TO LABOUR

Professor A. C. Pigou, the distinguished Cambridge economist, claims to have made an amazing discovery. He has convinced himself that wage cuts are a certain method of increasing the demand for labour. Writing in the "Economic Journal," he argues that if wages are reduced all round, prices will fall and wage-earners will be quite as well off after their wage packets have been raised.

It would be easy to dismiss this pleasant theory—about which the Professor himself has doubts in existing circumstances—as plain economic nonsense. But when the next big slump comes, Professor Pigou's arguments will be used to justify wholesale wage cuts. His theory will then be quoted by every capitalist newspaper as an authoritative pronouncement on the subject. Workers will be told that by accepting wage cuts they will be ensuring the nation's and their own prosperity.

In reality the Professor is restating the fly-wheel fallacy that the extravagance of the rich causes the well-being of the poor; and wage earners have sense enough to know that cash in the hand is infinitely better than a theory in the bush. But the essential thing is that organised labour throughout the country should be thoroughly familiar with the iron facts.

The truth is that there has been no real improvement in the position of the workers during the last twelve years. According to "The Economist," the wages of the British worker are very little higher now than they were in 1924, although his working hours have been increased. Measured in terms of effort, the worker is no so well paid in 1937 as he was in 1924.

Whereas wages have increased by only 2 per cent. during the past twelve months, the cost of living has risen by 6 per cent. Food prices alone are up by 9 per cent. The net result is that the real wages of labour are very much less today than they were a year ago.

CO-OPERATIVE SUCCOUR FOR VICTIMS OF THE PIT

£1,000 IN ANSWER TO UNION APPEAL

The majority of miners who perished in the Markham No. 1 Pit disaster were connected with one or other of the four co-operative societies in the area—Staveley, Croxall, Croft, and Chesterfield. Already many co-operative death benefit claims have been paid to widows who find in co-operation an economic help-meet in tragedy as well as in normal times. Up to a week after the disaster seventeen such claims had been paid by the Staveley Society, which has a branch near the tragic colliery. The Staveley Society was officially represented at the funeral service of fifteen of the victims held at the Staveley Parish Church.

CO-OPERATIVE UNION APPEAL

Once again the Co-operative Union issued the appeal which always secures a prompt response from the movement when major disasters of this kind occur. Five hundred guineas has been the immediate response of the C.O.W.S.—Sevental representatives of the Brightside and Carbrook, Sheffield and Ecclesall, Manchester and Salford, and Nottingham, each of whom subscribed £50; have acted with equal promptitude, and

up to Wednesday morning co-operation's effort had been given a magnificent send-off with donations received at the Co-operative Union amounting to over £1,000.

Staveley Society is giving twenty-five guineas.

All subscriptions to the Co-operative Union fund will go to swell the Central Fund launched by the Mayor of Chesterfield. By centralising donations in the Co-operative Union fund societies will ensure representation for the movement on the body of trustees which will be called to administer the fund.

SWEDEN PLANS TO STOP SLUMP

By DOUGLAS JAY, "Daily Herald" City Editor.

The policy of preparing a public works programme beforehand to stop a possible slump is being put into practice by Sweden's Labour Government, whose success in overcoming the last slump is now well known.

No slump yet threatens in Sweden. Production is 40 per cent. above the 1930 record, unemployment has vanished, and prospects are good.

Nevertheless, after prolonged consultations with the various municipalities and State economic agencies, the Government has drawn up a detailed works programme which could at once be put into effect if a slump threatened at any time in the next ten years.

The total of possible expenditure provided for by the plan is £2,200,000,000. This includes £56,000,000 to be spent directly by the State on building and £2,000,000,000 to be spent by municipalities on public works, partly with the aid of State subsidies.

It is planned to spend £48,000,000 on road improvements, £23,000,000 on agriculture, and £7,500,000 on forests. In this way it is calculated that 200,000,000 "man-days" of work would be provided.

The expenditure planned is clearly very large—considering that Sweden is a small country and that the great depression of 1932 was averted there by an expenditure of only £20,000,000 on public works and industrial subsidies. The sum of £243,000,000, however, is the maximum figure for a ten-year plan.

Preparations to finance the plan are at present being completed by the repayment of public debt out of Bond issues; £3,000,000 was so used last year.

A VARIETY TO PLEASE ALL IN C.W.S. GUARANTEED QUALITIES.

JUVENILES'

Tweed Suits 3-Piece 12/6 to 21/- In Blue Serge 18/6 to 27/6

BOYS'

Hard-wearing Tweed Suits 4-Piece 18/6 to 25/11 In Blue Serge 25/11 to 37/6

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"THE ARCADE" ECCLESALL ROAD

THE NEW EDUCATION FROM PRISON TO PARADISE

By COUNCILLOR J. GILL

On the occasion of the opening of the Beck-road Council School on May 12th, Councillor J. Gill, an ex-schoolmaster, and deputy-chairman of the City Education Committee, gave a very interesting review of the development of education in general, and in particular in Sheffield. Said Councillor Gill: "The contrast of this fine school with those of the three-decker type which are a landmark of early school board days, is evidence of the high estimate placed upon the child to-day compared with its value in the public eye half-a-century ago. At that time mass teaching was the rule, and methods were primitive; the big stick and school bobby were marked features. The ideal of Aristotle that 'The purpose of education was to enable man to live happily, usefully, and bravely, and that children should be trained, if possible, in this atmosphere,' was far removed from the methods employed in those days. It has been my lot," said Councillor Gill, "through years of experiment and keen advocacy for happier conditions in school, to see this gradual approximation to the Aristotle ideal."

"Our early contentions as educationists that the three R's were irrelevant to very young children—indeed, often dangerous—were urged with bated breath, but a steady-growing consciousness in this direction developed."

A HEALTHY BODY ESSENTIAL.

"A further urge—that attempts to educate effectively an ill-nourished child were not only impossible but criminal, came with the dawning of the twentieth century, and free meals and school medical inspection followed. In the meantime, the public conscience had at last been touched by our appeals for the education of the blind, the deaf, and the mentally defective."

"Medical inspection was received with almost open hostility, mothers in those days resenting the attention paid to care of hair and teeth. It is pleasing to find mothers now taking great interest in the medical inspection of their children and co-operating heartily with teachers and doctors."

"Almost simultaneously with the introduction of Medical Inspection came the first physical drill syllabus. Its author was Colonel Fox, and it continued far too much of military forms of physical instruction. There have been two revisions since, but the last and almost recent issue is a really great reform. Children love it, the teacher is no longer drill instructor, but one who becomes a games companion as well as a gymnasium instructor."

"Other school subjects have been humanised. Art has developed from the tyranny of the straight line and the geometrical model to a means by which a child can express itself through drawing and painting. Folk songs and dances, too, while truly educative, are to the child recreative pastimes, of which their grandparents knew nothing."

INDIVIDUALITY.

"One of the greatest revolutions in educational ideals has been the realisation of the value of the individual child, and the conviction that individuality cannot be developed by mass instruction and by fact-staking. The root principle of the New Education is that the child learns better and more lastingly along the lines of its own personal interests. And these can be discovered by allowing it to follow its natural instincts and impulses, which, as every mother knows, is the love of doing things, making things, and finding out things. Education is really a questing—a voyage of discovery. The evolution of man from his primitive state has been a growth of knowledge by finding out, and it is on these lines that education must proceed."

CREATIVE EDUCATION.

"Education to-day is creative in every sense. In all good schools interest in making things pervades the whole timetable and curriculum. As a consequence school has become a really happy place instead of a prison, and children love to be there. No longer does Shakespeare's description apply of 'the winning schoolboy, creeping like a snail unwillingly to school.'"

"Quite recently the parents of a Southern town organised a school strike because they demanded a greater measure of safety on the roads leading to the schools. To this end they called the school gates, but some of the boys remembered that they had no boys' work in the classrooms and finished work in the playgrounds, and found their way over walls and fences, and got into their classrooms and classrooms in spite of their parents. Teachers are no longer tyrants, but friends. A new education has begun."

CITIZENSHIP IN THE MAKING.

"To-day democracy is challenged every-

where by a system which inculcates a slavish subordination to inflexible leaders, and the crushing of individuality. There is no doubt in the minds of the teachers of our country as to the freer and nobler ideal of our system of education and its need with our great national traditions for freedom."

"In declaring this school opened," concluded Councillor Gill, "I venture to pray that the teachers may be imbued with the highest aims of their profession, earnestly for the making of good citizens, and that scholars may have happy and grateful memories of Beck-road School."

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"THE ARCADE," ECCLESALL ROAD



Councillor J. Gill (Deputy-Chairman of the Education Committee) planting a tree after opening the Beck-road Council School.

Photo: By kind permission of "The Daily Independent."



Councillor J. H. Bingham (Chairman of the Education Committee) planting a tree after the official opening of the Beck-road Council School, Shiregreen. Behind him are the Lord Mayor (Ald. E. C. Rowlinson, J.P.) and Ald. W. Bancroft (Chairman, School Medical Service).

A BOON TO BAKING OPERATIVES

WHAT LABOUR'S NEW BILL WILL DO

The Labour Party's Baking Industry (Hours of Work) Bill was given its unopposed third reading in the House of Commons on May 13th. Although the Bill has been amended during the committee stage, and is a compromise which had to be accepted in order to ensure its passing, it will be a great boon to baking trade operatives.

In its original form the Bill proposed to abolish all night baking. As a result of negotiations between the employers' representatives and Mr. W. J. Banfield (Bakers' Union), who has been the prime mover in securing this reform, the Bill now embodies proposals for a Trade Board and for the limitation of night baking.

The Bill will come into operation on January 22, 1940, or earlier if the Home Secretary certifies that a Trade Board has been established and Parliament approves. It provides for three alternative rotations of the problem of night baking: the possibility of day baking, or a shift of five nights a week, or alternative shifts in which men will not work at night for more than three weeks out of six.

There are various exceptions which may be allowed by the Home Secretary to cover special circumstances such as seasonal demands in holiday resorts, &c.

TO END "NIGHT SLAVERY."

Mr. Hasden Guest, whose luck in the ballot for Private Members' Bills enabled him to introduce the Bill, moved the third reading and in so doing said its main achievement was that it put into use the opportunities provided by agreement to agreements reached between employers and employed. It opened up to men who had been living a life of what they rightly called "night slavery," the prospect of greatly improved conditions. Mr. W. J. Banfield, seconding, said he had not altered his opinion that the baking trade could be carried on under a system of day work. But although the Bill did not abolish night work altogether, it effected a substantial improvement. It would mean that under one alternative men would not work more than twenty-six weeks on night work in any one year; and the men would work six nights a week would work only five nights, without reduction of wages. The Trade Board would remedy bad conditions in the industry.

After referring the industry to the second reading was carried despite opposition from the Government, Mr. Banfield concluded—

"No class of workers in the country more deserves a betterment of their

conditions than the operative bakers. For long their lot has been one of semi-slavery, long hours, low wages, and bad conditions generally. This Bill and the Trade Board will accomplish a real piece of social service."

Mr. Phya Davies said one of the greatest benefits of the Bill would be that it would make for better organisation on both sides in the industry. He pointed out that night baking was completely abolished in a number of other countries, and he expressed the hope that the British baking industry would eventually adopt the same enlightened attitude towards its reform.

POSTAL SERVICE

It is all very well for co-operators to have high opinions of themselves, what matters in the long run is the opinion of the world at large. If the Post Office authorities are a true sample of that opinion, the co-operative movement is all it thinks of itself, and more. A letter reached one Post Office addressed to "The Chief Grocer in the Town." The letter was delivered without delay to the co-operative society.

An envelope from the Cold Coast arrived, addressed to "C.W.S. Seeds, England." With their usual consciousness the postal authorities sent the letter to the big horticultural centre of the C.W.S. at Darby, and the trusting native got his seeds.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETS IN SCOTLAND

The executive of the International Co-operative Alliance met in Glasgow on May 10th. Considerable anxiety is felt in co-operative circles regarding the future of the co-operative movement in Central Europe.

Under the Nazi regime in Germany the co-operative movement has been seriously crippled. In Austria, before it became a German province, there existed an excellent co-operative movement. What will happen to the Austrian co-operative societies now that they are part of a Hitlerized State is the cause of serious concern. Already a Nazi Commissioner has been placed over the movement in a supervisory capacity.

There is also a strong co-operative movement in Czechoslovakia. Should any move be made by Germany to attach Czechoslovakia to its growing territories, then the co-operative societies might perish.

The question was fully discussed at Glasgow when a report was received from Mr. H. J. May, O.B.E., Alliance general secretary, on the Czech position. Representatives attended the conference from Finland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Belgium, France, and Sir Fred Hayward, Sir William Bradshaw and Mr. R. A. Palmer, represented Great Britain.

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H. WATSON,
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