



# The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



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## ALEXANDER'S FIGHTING SPEECH GOVERNMENT'S TRADING POLICY FAILURE Tariffs and Quotas No Remedy

Mr. Alexander attacked the Government on its international trade policy in the House of Commons on the occasion of the Adjournment, July 29th. Below we print extracts from the speech—

"The trade returns for the first six months of this year reveal an adverse trade balance of rather more than £203,000,000, as compared with £197,000,000 for the corresponding six months of last year, and the latter figure was an increase of £41,000,000 over the corresponding six months of 1936. I heard the Prime Minister say just now, in reply to a supplementary question, that he would appreciate any statement being made to suggest that we were returning to the kind of slump or trade depression that we experienced in 1933.

"I would point out that the figure of the adverse trade balance is actually £20,000,000 more than the figure of the corresponding six months of 1931, when the trade balance was used so often against us in that connection.

"The position is £12,000,000 worse in the first six months of this year than at the same time last year, and the adverse balance has grown worse. The adverse balance last year was £52,000,000. I anticipate that in the first six months of the current year the adverse trade balance will probably be steeper in its effect—just as it is in the first six months—and, therefore, we are facing the danger of an increasingly serious situation. The Federation of British Industries issued recently a manifesto on this subject. I will not quote it at length, but it finishes by saying that no nation can continue indefinitely to face an adverse trade balance of magnitude without permanently weakening the financial structure.

### Unemployment.

"In connection with this general trade position, which we view with such anxiety, we on this side of the House at any rate are specially concerned with

the constantly rising figure of unemployment.

On June 13th the total number of registered unemployed was 1,862,000, an increase of 24,000 over the previous month, and on a comparable basis the June figure this year would show an increase of 800,000 over the figure for last June.

"We have to remember, also, that 500,000 additional unemployed means that 500,000 additional homes are in restricted circumstances and subject to daily and weekly hardship. That is an exceedingly serious matter. As was pointed out in a supplementary question later, that is the position in spite of the rearmament programme, presumably now almost reaching its peak, and but for which it seems to me the registered figure of unemployment to-day would not be 1,500,000, but some figure nearer 3,000,000. We on this side of the House have asked more than once what was going to be done in regard to this important matter. The Prime Minister referred this morning to the rearmament programme, international trade. Unfortunately, as it seems to us, over and over again when we have tried to deal with this question, the expenditure on the rearmament programme and the unbalanced state of the Budget have interfered with any really active and constructive policy being announced by the Government to deal with this very serious situation. In spite of the statement of the Prime Minister repeated again this morning, I do not believe for a moment that any one who examines the facts can feel other than that we are once again in the grasp of trade depression.

"Some of my colleagues when they spoke on this question on a previous occasion were told that they were

alarmists, but the self-deception then practised by the Government was not shared by the President in June. He was very frank about it. We see evidence on all hands of this serious position, not the least serious feature of which is the present heavy decline in railway traffics. One of the curious features of the situation is that of which attention was drawn by the "Economicist." This position is accompanied by a shortage of labour in some industries and high activity in industries of the kind which are usually left dry when there is a slowing down of the tide of trade. In the past the Prime Minister in particular has always argued, and has indeed argued again this morning, against public works being undertaken to relieve depression. But when you consider this question of the varied circumstances of the employment and unemployment position that I have just mentioned, you have to remember that the Prime Minister's Government have, in fact, been relying very largely on special works—rearmament works—to deal with this situation. Yet we have these extraordinary differences in the different industries.

### Shipbuilding.

"The President of the Board of Trade has under his wing the Mercantile Marine Department, which is largely affected by this international trade situation. There is no doubt that the effect of the rearmament programme on iron and steel prices has been such that the shipbuilding industry is in danger, I will not say of going out of existence, but at least of beginning the decline towards that position. If the information contained in the Press this week is accurate—I have not checked up with any Chamber of Commerce figures—

half the shipping berths in this country are empty, and actually this country is buying more tonnage from abroad than it is being built here for foreign countries. It is true that the launchings are very heavy, but these are due to orders placed before the rearmament programme sent costs soaring.

"British shipowners have recently placed abroad orders to the value of £5,000,000 sterling, and only a few days ago the Canadian Pacific Company had to abandon the idea of placing orders in this country on account of the high prices. We bear continually that the cost of steel is preventing shipowners from placing orders.

### Restoration of International Trade.

"I believe—and I speak from my own personal conviction—that there is no real remedy for this position without a substantial move for the restoration of international trade. It is the position of the export trade which has contributed most to the current depression, and which will continue to contribute to the increasing depression.

"It is through the export trade that we can most usefully attack the problem of growing unemployment."

"I observe that a short manifesto was issued a week or two ago by the Federation of British Industries, in which they emphasised that exports must be increased, and they suggest that the British tariff should be of the three-decker variety, instead of, as it is in many instances to-day the two-decker variety, and that there should be three rates—the lowest applying to the Empire, the middle one

(Continued on next page.)

Hillsborough Parliamentary Division.

SHEPHERD AND NORWOOD ESTATES.

Rt. Hon.

# A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

will address OPEN-AIR MEETINGS as follows:

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15, 7-15 p.m., TEYNHAM ROAD.

MUSGRAVE ROAD.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16, 7-30 p.m., Corner MUSGRAVE CRESCENT & CORNWALL RD.

LONGLEY AVENUE, NORWOOD.

Supported by Councillors STOKES, FISHER, and others.

**ALEXANDER'S FIGHTING SPEECH**

(Continued from previous page.)  
to those countries which treat British goods favourably, and the highest to those countries whose treatment of our goods we regard as unfair.

"I, personally, am a strong opponent of all tariffs and quotas, because I do not believe they are a satisfactory remedy for the international trade position;

but in the present circumstances such a three-decker tariff would be an excellent thing, but only if the third schedule on commodities is drawn between two existing ones and provides concessions to countries that agree to facilitate our export trade.

"There is a widespread feeling that the time is opportune for the countries that desire greater freedom in the exchange of goods to get together to promote it. If we could secure agreement on these lines it would be useful as a stimulating example to the rest of the world. That is why we asked to be allowed this meeting to take the question of the present negotiations on the proposed Anglo-American Trade Agreement.

"We believe that such an agreement would not only help to clear the channels of world trade, but would also be a starting point for a fresh attempt at economic discussion.

**Van Zealand Report.**

"Although we were well behind other countries up to 1931-32 in a protectionist policy, we have in the last six years probably done more than any other country to react to the world trade with our colonies. Therefore, when one bears in mind the fact that this week the Prime Minister has again banged the door upon any immediate consideration of the Van Zealand Report, we ought to press the Government very strongly to tell the House and the country what they are doing and are prepared to do, in face of the very serious adverse trade balance and the growing depression, really to reopen the channels of international trade. It is often argued that the Van Zealand Report would be a very useful negotiation if conditions were more stable on which to begin to operate negotiations. I remember that Mr. Van Zealand thought that it would be most undesirable, in view of the serious world position, if any attempt were made to delay real discussion or were attempted to open up negotiations."

**Failure of Tariff and Quota Policy.**

After a further reference to the Anglo-American Trade Agreement and the Australian Tariff Board, Mr. Alexander concluded by saying: "I am more than ever convinced, as a result of a study of the present situation and an analysis of the trade situation for the last eight years, that what we have always said from these benches has proved to be correct, namely, that the adoption of a policy of tariffs, quotas, and restrictions, in order, as it used to be claimed, to maintain employment has proved to be completely fallacious; that, in fact, with the imposition of Customs Duties to-day of one hundred and eighty million more in a year, we are not for the existence of the special emergency arrangements programme, we should to-day be in a far worse trade position and employment situation than we were then. The case that we put is that,

in spite of the claims that have been made by the Government in the last four or five years, that what tariffs have accomplished, we cannot possibly maintain the situation of this country, with its 45,000,000 people to employ, unless we get down to a better basis with regard to the flow of international trade.

"We urge, as the immitable and first step, that the Government should state that the Government of the United States may be so pressed as to come to a successful conclusion."

**PUBLIC HEALTH NO CAUSE FOR COMPLACENCY.**

The annual report of the Ministry of Health for 1937-38 shows that perceptible though slow progress is being made in the development of those social services to which the first impetus was given at the beginning of the century by the young Labour Party's introduction into politics of the conception of the State as guardian of the public welfare. Detailed figures, however, make it clear that although the improvement which has been effected in the public health during the last twenty years is indeed remarkable, progress during the last few years has been much slower than it ought to have been. As the "Manchester Guardian" pointed out in its leader on August 11th: "We are only half-way towards providing suitable homes for all citizens, less than half-way towards providing suitable recreation, and we are only half-way towards providing an enemy as cholera and typhus used to be, and we cannot guarantee that the peasant have the food we admit they need."

Mr. Elliot himself, speaking of the problems of maternity and child welfare, says: "We cannot afford to lose every year nearly 2,000 mothers and more than 35,000 children under the age of one." The problem of maternal mortality he admits as being "stubbornly static." Although the number has increased slightly as compared with the previous year, the percentage of expectant mothers who attended antenatal clinics was still only 54.19.

The housing and slum clearance scheme remains extremely slow in execution. Although the number of houses scheduled for demolition has been increased by 54 per cent. to 420,000, the number of houses actually demolished during the last five years is only 108,984, whilst only 186,755 new houses have been built.

As the Labour Party has consistently maintained in the House of Commons, the rate and scope of the slum clearance and the maternity and child welfare schemes require speeding up and ex-

tension. Thousands of people living in overcrowded conditions are without hope of improvement because their dwellings fall neither within the slum clearance Acts, nor the overcrowding bye-laws. The provision for the care of mothers is hopelessly inadequate. A large proportion of the population is underfed, the slum remains to be done before the health of the nation can be regarded as satisfactory.

**A THREAT TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES.**

In these circumstances it is particularly distressing to hear suggestions for an economy drive at the expense of the social services such as have been emanated from Government supporters during recent weeks. These threats were repeated in "The Times" leader on August 11th, commenting on the Ministry's report:—

"A moment when the demagogue of foreign countries compares the spending of such money on the defence of this realm is a moment when it is right to scan with particular vigilance any news about the social services. It is too early yet for the present development of the fighting services to have made any marked effect upon the national advance in health, decency, comfort, cleanliness, and goodness. . . . For the Ministry of Health . . . may turn out to mark the starting point of a gallant advance in spite of increasing difficulty, or to be the trophy erected on the farthest boundary of achievement."

Any suggestion that the boundary of achievement in the development of the social services has been reached will be summarily rejected by the Labour Movement which will, as Mr. Greenwood assured the Government during the debate on the Health Estimates, meet any attempt to curtail those services in the interests of rearmament with the most determined opposition.

**THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES INCREASE ON LAST YEAR.**

The latest figures of unemployment issued by the Ministry of Labour show that on July 18th, 1938, the number of unemployed persons on the registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain (including persons within the agricultural scheme) were 1,244,466, wholly unemployed 657,773 temporarily stopped, and 60,882 unemployed in casual employment, making a total of 1,773,126.

Although this was 29,705 less than the number on the registers at June 12th, 1938, it showed an increase on a comparable basis, of 448,000 as compared with July 26th, 1937. Further, the decrease on the previous month is principally due to a resumption of work after local holidays in the textile industry, which affected the figures for the North-Western Division.

The returns stated that employment declined in the coal mining, building, public works contracting, tailoring, dressmaking, and motor vehicle and cycle manufacture. The following table shows the increases in unemployment in various industries since July, 1937:

Industry	Increase since July, 1937
Cotton	72,890
Coal mining	45,000
Metal goods manufacture	32,500
Building	30,160
Iron and Steel	26,660
Textiles and Woollen	25,000
Engineering, & C.	22,230
Distributive trades	20,270
Motor vehicles, cycles, and aircraft	14,270

The numbers in employment show a substantial decrease as compared with last year. At July 18th, 1938, the number of insured persons aged 16 to 64 in employment in Great Britain (exclusive of persons within the agricultural scheme) was approximately 11,271,000—38,000 more than last month, but about 300,000 less than on July 26th, 1937.

As the "Times" commented in a leader on August 10th, "it would be idle to deny that, in spite of the growth of armament orders, the volume of industrial activity has declined in a good many directions. Even when allowance has been made for seasonal influences, a fairly sharp recession is noticeable in the iron and steel trades, the textile trades, and coal mining—10 give only three of the major labouring industries."

**LABOUR'S PROGRESS IN CANADA**

**SEATS DOUBLED IN RECENT ELECTIONS.**

At the recent elections in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Commonwealth Federation, which is the Canadian Labour Party, achieved a striking success. From the point of view of population Saskatchewan is the third largest province, and the Labour Party there carried out a vigorous campaign in the legislature. The average number of votes cast for each Labour candidate increased by 25 per cent. as compared with the 1934 elections.

At the previous elections in 1934 the Liberals obtained 50 out of 55 seats, and Labour had only five. Meanwhile the number of seats in the legislature have been reduced, and in the latest elections the Liberals obtained 38 seats, Labour ten, and Social Credit and Independents two each.

Labour has thus doubled its strength in the legislature. The average number of votes cast for each Labour candidate increased by 25 per cent. as compared with the 1934 elections.

The Conservative Party did not secure a single seat. The Social Credit Party, which is the neighbouring province of Alberta has a majority, but up 40 candidates and made a big effort to get a hold in Saskatchewan. Communist support, though it was failed. The Canadian Commonwealth Federation is the Official Opposition to the Liberal Government, and it is especially strong in the eastern part of the province, where it has the support of the farmers.

**A private word to Husbands**

**GENTLEMEN!** A word in your ear. It's about your wife. Is she a co-operator? Does she shop at the co-operative store and buy C.W.S. productions? She ought to, you know. Co-operative purchasing means a dividend, and C.W.S. goods made trade union conditions for producer and distributor, and quality consistent with the sole motive of service not profit. Consistent co-operation is an ideal which pays high "dividends."

Announcement of the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.

**National Fitness**

"National Fitness." By F. le Gros Clark. Macmillan. 2s. 6d.

This book deals with the matter referred to in its title, about which the Government has quite recently become extremely enthusiastic. Fitness is a good thing, even when physical fitness alone is meant, as in the case here, and with the Government, too. It is strange that governmental circles never agitated themselves over the subject of physical fitness until war became a very likely thing.

**MOTIVE?**

One can strongly suspect the Government's motive when it waxes enthusiastic over physical fitness, but who can do more than suspect? One thing is certain, however, that physical fitness, as a complete aim of man, is a woeful thing; the best form of physical fitness is to be found in the jungle!

Public health is best secured by public fitness—of body and mind. "The young men were examined for the European War, and we seem to have become so complacent about the results of this examination, that we have troubled very little about the matter since." So writes the author of this book, and rightly wonders why a Co. nation discovered during the last war, was left alone for twenty years until another war loomed ahead.

**AN EARLIER WAR.**

The interest in national fitness aroused by the later War was followed by reforms . . . and by a public interest in the problems of hygiene and child welfare. "So war, and the threat to destroy man, would seem to create a fresh effort for persistence and physical improvement! Earlier still (1831), as cholera touched our coast towns, the Consultative Board of Health was established. Throughout the century, almost to the date when the Public Health Act was passed in 1875, "Cholera conveniently threatened our shores whenever our legislators seemed to be weakening in their task of sanitary reform."

**FREE MEALS.**

The national emergency created by the last war and the sudden enhancement in the value of the nation's youths (which seems so often to affect our legislators when there is a likelihood of early death upon the battlefield) "stimulated yet another circular encouraging the provision of meals in all areas where distress was felt to be acute."

**BEFORE BIRTH.**

Effort is most rightly made to secure health from the earliest possible moment. "The rise in the number of women attending ante-natal clinics has been phenomenal. In 1934, 41 per cent. of the total pregnancies resulting in notified births were thus supervised, as compared with 27 per cent. in 1930. At all such clinics the educational work is considered as of primary importance." There is much cost and terrific waste in our present State education, but at least, we are on safe lines here.

**THE FACTORS.**

There is no royal road to health and (Continued in next column.)

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**"ASHFIELD" BRAND Hosiery and Underwear**

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**Brightside and Carbrook Passes the Two Million Mark**

The Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society has just issued their half-yearly report for the period ending July 25th, 1938, which shows a total of sales for the half-year amounting to £1,018,882, and an increase of £28,199 over the corresponding period last year. The total sales for the year amount to £4,922,874, which is an increase of 9.9 per cent. over the previous year. The disposable surplus amounts to £28,197 after allowing for interest on the usual depreciation on buildings and fixtures. The directors propose a dividend and bonus of 1s. 9d. in the pound on sales, which will amount to £37,607, and a grant to the education fund of £700.

There has been an increase in the investments in the society—always a good indication of the members' confidence in the business. New members have joined during the half-year, making a total membership now of 74,997. Two pleasing features of the report are the continued increase in the purchases per member and the high percentage of commodities purchased from co-operative sources.

It will be observed that the society has now a turnover of more than two million pounds per annum. For some years past the two million mark was regarded as an ideal, and was only reached once before when prices were very high in 1925. The present trade shows a substantial development in bulk turnover since the recent prices eighteen years ago.

The directors report the opening of new premises at Wordsworth-avenue, Parson Cross estate. Other sites are receiving attention on the various estates with a view to further development of trading operations.

(Continued from column one.)

fitness, and no fantastic exercises in gymnasium dress can equal the value of good and sufficient food, fresh air, sunshine, and moderate exercise of mind and body as a normal life outlet to provide.

This book is an excellent review of the whole subject, it is well balanced and critical, and sees the whole matter of physical fitness in the proper perspective. It can be recommended to all who desire to read on the subject. B.

**THE "NON-INTERVENTION" FARCE**

**FRANCO'S FAILURE**

The gravity of the international situation created by the Caspian-Volvoia crisis has removed the conflict in Spain from "front page news," but the position in Spain at the moment is none the less significant from the point of view of those who are concerned about the preservation of democracy in that country.

The plain fact of the military situation in Spain is that Franco is far from achieving his oft-quoted "victory" over the Republican forces as he was at the beginning of the rebellion. Time after time he has defeated the Spanish Government with his mouth, but after every such "defeat" has come the inevitable counter-attack which has checked his advance and even driven him back.

The epic struggle of the Spanish Government against Franco and his Fascist allies has won the admiration of the people in every democratic country. That struggle has been made all the more difficult by the assistance given to Franco by Germany and Italy and the refusal of other Powers to allow the Spanish Government the right to purchase arms and munitions for its defence.

In spite of the terrific handicap of this one-sided "Non-intervention" the Government forces have prevailed Franco from making any real headway in recent months. New rebel attacks have been launched only to be broken and abandoned. Less than a month ago, for instance, "The Times" correspondent at the rebel headquarters reported that Franco was making a mass attack on what was contemptuously described as the "mangled bulk" of the Republican forces at Gandes. To-day the Republican forces are still holding the rebels on that front and barring the road to Valencia.

Spain's failure makes it all the more necessary to maintain and strengthen the demand for the ending of the "non-intervention" mockery. It cannot be denied that without the aid given by Germany and Italy, Franco would have been defeated long ago. The "British Plan" for the proportional withdrawal of foreign combatants would, if it were honestly carried out, compel Franco to rely solely on what support he could secure from Spanish sources. He knows that would mean speedy defeat at the

hands of the Government forces. That is why he has rejected the "British Plan."

The British Government has played the principal part in ensuring the continuance of a "non-intervention" policy which has operated entirely against the Spanish Government and aided the rebels. Mr. Neville Chamberlain has now been disillusioned about the prospect of a speedy victory for Franco, on which he appears to have based his hope of securing the application of the Anglo-Italian Agreement. The present situation clearly demands the abandonment of a policy which has failed.

The Spanish Government has so far succeeded in defending democracy in Spain, and in so doing, has rendered a service to democracy everywhere. In these crucial times it is all the more vital that Spanish democracy should be given a fair deal.

**GERMAN CATHOLICS' PROTEST**

The German bishops demand that an end be put to this fight against Christianity. In a strongly worded pastoral letter read in Catholic churches in Germany on August 25th. The letter added that the fight against the Church continues both in the old Reich and in Austria and grows fiercer, and aims at "the uprooting of Christianity altogether and the introduction of a faith which has nothing more to do with a belief in God and the Beyond."

Referring to the recent expulsion of Dr. Spuhl, the Catholic Bishop of Rottenburg, the letter states that German bishops are bound to fear similar action. Other passages from the letter are—

"They (the enemies of the Church) want to prepare us for a life in catacombs which would be the beginning of the end. Everywhere, even in instruction books used in school, everything is suppressed that is great and good in the Catholic faith or it is distorted in order to serve their racial aims. Everything that is good is dragged to the light and exaggerated. . . ."

"While enemies of the Catholic faith are unhampered in expressing their views, all Catholic books and periodicals are being subjected to a most severe censorship and very often forbidden or confiscated. . . . In some places they have actually removed the Christian Cross and even destroyed it."

"They say that Christianity is out-moded, decadent, and not suitable for the present day. War, then, this colossal effort to destroy something alleged to be deceiving and rotten."

The effect of the Nazi attack is summed up in the statement that in Germany to-day "thousands of Catholics, at themselves the burning question whether, in spite of their loyalty to State and community, they are still citizens with equal rights."

**BEHIND CIVIL WAR SCENE**



Scene at Barcelona, where centres have been established for the distribution of milk rations to necessitous Spanish children under the Co-operative Union's "Milk for Spain" scheme.

Reports received by the Co-operative Union show that the latest large consignment of dried milk has reached Spain safely, under the auspices of the co-operative "Milk for Spain" scheme, and is being distributed to hospitals and canteens in Barcelona. Already arrangements are in hand for the dispatch of further supplies which will help to relieve suffering in other areas. Although the August holiday period has caused a decrease in the rate of contributions, over £450 was received for the "Milk for Spain" fund last week. Local Labour Parties and trade

union branches continue their efforts, and a further £300 has been transferred to the Co-operative Union Fund. Co-operative contributions were headed by a £50 cheque from Walsall Society, whilst British members, who have generously supported the fund since its inception, raised a further £200. Productive societies and women's guild branches sent further help. The Brightside and Carbrook Society have voted a further £250 to the fund. New appeals will be made to co-operative members in the Manchester area.

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**LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR WALKLEY**

**Mr. Luther Hoyland Selected**



Mr. Luther Hoyland has been chosen as the Labour candidate for the Walkley Ward.

It will be remembered that Mr. Hoyland contested a by-election on the retirement of Councillor Skelland and was only 79 votes behind his opponent. Since then he has been active in propaganda work and is much better known to the Walkley electors than on that occasion.

Mr. Hoyland is president of the Woodhouse Labour Party and vice-president of the Park Divisional Labour Party. He has been a co-operator for 25 years. A trade unionist who represented his fellows in that capacity for many years, Mr. Hoyland is now retired and will be able to devote his full time to the representation of the Walkley people.

His electors will have ample opportunity to speak to him personally during the next few weeks. In a recent interview Mr. Hoyland said: "I am sufficiently concerned about the welfare of the people and especially the children to be anxious and willing to give my best service to their interests. Peace, plenty and prosperity should be the birthright of the modern child. I can give my best service, along with the Labour and Co-operative colleagues on the City Council, and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to serve in the capacity of Councillor."

Mr. Hoyland realises that the biggest opposition he has to overcome is apathy. If the many co-operators and trade unionists in the Walkley Ward will only realise their individual responsibilities Mr. Hoyland's election is certain.

**CO-OPERATIVE**

**BRIGHTSIDE**

The Brightside Divisional Council is arranging a series of meetings each month as on previous occasions. The first meeting of the session will be devoted to municipal matters and arrangements for the forthcoming elections.

**BURNGREAVE**

The Burngreave Women's Section reports a good attendance during the whole of last year and keen interest in the meetings which are held on Wednesdays in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

The opening social was held on August 21st. Mrs. Velland, the secretary, who was one of the delegates to the Co-operative Congress, will report on the proceedings at the meeting on September 7th. Mrs. Barwick is the speaker on the 14th, 21st, Councillor (Mrs.) Cumming will speak on "The Beauties of Switzerland"; and on the 28th, Mrs. Johnson will be the speaker.

**HILLSBOROUGH**

The Hillsborough Divisional Party will open their session with a dance in the Institute on September 8th; 15th, the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., will be the speaker; 22nd, Alderman F. H. Watkins, J.P.; and 29th, Councillor Stierland.

The Women's Section opened their Monday afternoon meetings with a social on September 24th. Councillor H. Shack is the speaker; 10th, Mr. W. Berry on "Agricultural Problems"; and 26th, Mr. P. Dimsley will give an address on "Roads." September 21st, a trip to Morecambe will take place, including cost for the excursion by "chara" and lunch and tea, 11s. Secretary: Mrs. C. Bolton, 2, Findon-street.

**NEEPSEND**

The Neepsend Ward area secretary reports sustained interest in their meetings during the summer. On July 13th Alderman T. H. Watkins, J.P., gave an exhaustive report of City Council matters with special reference to the splendid health record of the city. On the same evening the Trades and Labour Council report was received and discussed. On August 10th Councillor R. Stokes dealt particularly with the slum clearance work of the Corporation. He also deprecated the bad habits of those responsible for the litter in the parks. The new hospital provision for rheumatic children at Ash

**PARTY NOTES**

House, Dore, also came up for discussion. The proposal received the hearty approval of those present. The Speakers are being arranged for the first and third Wednesdays in the month, as well as a series of visits to certain civic enterprises. Secretary: Mr. L. Baines.

The Women's Section commence their new session with a social on September 30th, 10th, Councillor Stokes will be the speaker; 17th, Mrs. Womersley will speak on current topics; 24th, Mr. Gilbert, Rhyll, will be the speaker. The trip to Rhyll was a huge success. The Entires can now be received for the both competition, March next year. Meetings held in the Neepsend Co-operative Institute, Manners - street, Mondays, at 2.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. E. Watson.

**SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD**

The Southey and Norwood secretary reports: "We once more embark on another autumn programme. September 12th, 19th, and 26th, we are holding a series of open-air meetings to be addressed by our representative, the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, Councillor Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, and others. Mr. Alexander will speak at Teyaham-road and Musgrave-road on the 12th, and corner of Meagrove - crescent and Musgrave - road, and Longley - new avenue, Norwood, on the 19th. New members are being secured on the 12th, 19th, and 26th, and it is anticipated that a Co-operative Party will be started in this area in the near future."

The committee is to arrange social functions monthly, these include Mock Parliament, Mock City Council, and Mock Outlets' Fest. This latter event has been definitely fixed at the City Stores Restaurant for November 24th, any member of the committee or the secretary: Mr. G. A. Holder, 84, Souther Hall-road.

The Women's Section has held very successful meetings during the year. A series of rambles has been organised during the holiday period. The first meeting of the new session was held on August 24th, when reports and general business of the organisation were discussed. Mrs. Whitney is the speaker on September 7th.

Meetings held in the Co-operative Institute, Southey - avenue, Wednesdays, at 2.30 p.m. Old and new members welcomed. Secretary: Mrs. Allan.

**SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL**

The Sheffield and Ecclesall have arranged a detailed programme in the society's educational syllabus. Members have been circulated for the new session which commences officially on October 3rd. September 5th, a business meeting and the monthly whilst dinner will be held on Monday, September 26th, at 7.30 p.m.

Meetings held in the Co-operative Institute, Napier-street. The Women's Section, which meets in Room 2, on Thursdays, held their annual excursion on July 4th to Windermere and Morecambe by motor-coach. The members had a most enjoyable time and paid tribute to the satisfactory arrangements made by the S. and E. travel department. The re-opening meeting on September 28th will be devoted to business; 15th, a whist drive; 22nd, Mrs. A. Freeman, of the League of Nations' Union, will speak; 29th, Dr. Esher, Principal of the Sheffield Child Guidance Clinic. Secretary: Mrs. E. Williams.

**WISEWOOD**

The Wisewood Section, which meets in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road, Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m., will commence their new session on Wednesday, September 14th, with a Cabaret Dance, admission, 9d. On September 21st, Mr. A. Ballard, the Party Organizer, will speak on "An Economic Survey of the British Co-operative Movement." Secretary: Mr. W. Stephenson.

**NEARLY £50,000 INCREASE IN SIX MONTHS**

**Sheffield and Ecclesall's 25th Report and Balance Sheet Shows Further Progress of this Well-established Society**

The Sheffield and Ecclesall's 25th report and balance sheet shows further progress of this well-established society. The trade for the six months under review amounts to £259,021, being an increase of £18,810 over the corresponding period of last year, and makes a total for the year of £1,525,087.

The disposable surplus is £70,270, after providing for the interest on members' share capital of £11,212 and depreciation according to rate amounting to £9,870.

The directors recommended a dividend of 2s. 6d. in the pound on members' purchases, which amounts to £69,208, a really creditable result having regard to the keen competitive prices at which the society retails its commodities.

There has been an increase in the members' share capital and small savings deposits.

The Arcade extensions for fruit, vegetables, fish, and game departments are now complete. Further extensions on the Ecclesall-road side are now proceeding. A new branch is to be built at Fawcett, at the corner of Brockhampton-avenue and Crimmoor-lane. The whole of the alterations and improvements at Wolsey-road have now been completed, and the rebuilding of the Dore-field store is well in hand.

**MR. ALEXANDER TO APPEAR WITH GEORGE FORMBY**

The Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., will attend the opening of the Formby Picture Palace, at Formby, Strickfield Estate, along with Mr. George Formby, the famous comedian, on the occasion of the opening ceremony which is announced for Saturday, September 17th, at 6.45 p.m.

**GRACIE HAS A NICE CUP OF TEA**



When Gracie Fields visited the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow found herself at home among the S.C.W.S. displays on the "co-op" stands. Gracie not only captured the saloon but enjoyed a cup of E. and S. Joint C.W.S. tea. The S.C.W.S. displays continue to be one of the biggest attractions among the exhibits.

Reprint, "Co-operative News," August 20th.

**FOOTWEAR FOR GENTS AND BOYS**

**Holyoake Brand**

IS THE MOST RELIABLE

TRADE UNION STAMP NO. 9  
Can be purchased from any Co-operative Boot Department in Sheffield.

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY THE  
**KETTERING CO-OPERATIVE BOOT SOCIETY**  
HAYLOCK WORKS, KETTERING

If you desire  
**Style, Quality, Comfort**  
WEAR  
**SELF-HELP SHOES**  
Made by Co-operators for Co-operators  
ASK FOR THEM AT YOUR STORES  
Made by Kettering Self-Help Co-operative Boot Manufacturers Ltd., Bedford Road, Kettering



## B&C DIVIDEND SHARE-OUT...

In about a week's time, well over £87,000 will be handed over to our members in dividends. This figure—at 1/9 in the £—establishes a record, but nevertheless we are hoping by next year to have a still larger sum to distribute. This depends on you, for the more you spend, the more your dividends will be. And, whilst talking of spending, you should certainly take full advantage of the special Dividend Offers which commence on Friday, September 9th.

### Co-operative Insurance in Sheffield

The Co-operative Insurance Society has shown such rapid development in Sheffield that the area has had to be divided into two districts—Sheffield North, with headquarters at 18, Ockwell Lane, and Sheffield South, with offices at Queen's Buildings, Queen-street.

At a dinner held in the City Stores Restaurant to celebrate this new development, it was shown that co-operative industrial insurance had increased from the premium income of £50,000 in 1918 to £1,510,475 in 1927, and to £4,084,784 in 1927. The total income in 1927 amounted to £6,218,544.

Special reference was made to the splendid service of Mr. Milton Hirst, who came to Sheffield 19 years ago as superintendent of the old Sheffield area and is now supervisor for the South District. Mr. Hirst commenced with only three agents, to-day there are 60.

Mr. Jindl (C.W.S. director, and chairman of the insurance society), speaking at the dinner, said that "this organisation has been built up not by any captains of industry so-called, but by men of the working class, whose determination was to keep to the front the high ideals of the movement."

The "Insurance Mail"—a journal devoted exclusively to insurance business—said on April 6th, 1928: "With this splendid progress we have a financial strength which is beyond challenge. The management too is on the best lines—thoroughly up-to-date and efficient. We have the greatest admiration for the Co-operative Insurance Society . . . and have pleasure in recommending it to the public."

### You can't do without it!

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

### Why?

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

### What?

"THE MILGATE" which contains, and binds the magazine at a shilling. Order it at your co-operative stores, bookseller, or railway bookseller.



### WOMEN'S NOTES BY THE WOMAN WITH THE BASKET

#### THE "SUBSIDY" GOVERNMENT.

This month I'm commencing my article with a few reflections on politics. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that whatever the present Government has done or has not done, it has been remarkably successful in putting British industry and agriculture "on the dole." In Great Britain to-day, wheat production is subsidised, herring fishery is subsidised, cattle raising is subsidised. The production of coal is subsidised. The building of open lines like the "Queen Mary" is subsidised.

#### SOCIALISATION OF TRANSPORT.

##### CASE PUT BY HERBERT MORRISON, M.P.

"British Transport at Britain's Service" is the title of a new penny pamphlet written by Herbert Morrison, M.P., and published by the Labour Party. It is an excellent treatise on the Socialisation of Transport.

Showing how, even within the operation of capitalist ownership and management, there has in recent years been a steady tendency away from cut-throat competition and waste and towards co-ordination, Mr. Morrison sets out the compulsory amalgamations and municipal ownership and control.

He points out that the people have to choose between private monopoly and public monopoly; that private monopoly is dangerous to public well-being and has to be subject to State regulation to protect the interests of the public; and that a monopoly which is owned and controlled by the public interest. Once the unification of ownership is achieved, it will be much easier to make those changes in the transport system necessary to proper co-ordination and efficiency.

Labour's policy of a National Transport Board is explained in detail, and Mr. Morrison shows how it would result in making transport an organised service for the nation instead of a partially disorganised means of exploiting the nation. "The Socialisation of Transport," he declared, "would be one of the big constructive steps towards making the nation the master and the planner of its own material resources."

The pamphlet is obtainable from the Labour Publications Department, Transport House, South Square, London, S.W.1. Post free prices: one copy 1/6d.; 12 copies 9d.; 100 copies 6s.

Civil aviation is subsidised. Amusement manufacture is subsidised to an extent never before known in history.

Now, you as a housewife, may think that such matters cannot affect you. But the whole point is that such subsidies come out of your pocket. In a sidereal speech in the House of Commons our Co-operative Member, Mr. A. V. Alexander, pointed out that the loss in the current year than last year is £41,000,000—taxes which are borne by the poor.

It has been estimated that with import tariffs upon almost every commodity in use, indirect taxation which falls heaviest upon the workers has increased by £85,000,000 in five years. All these tariffs and subsidies, we are told, are for one purpose, and that is to protect the producers and to secure high prices for their products.

You will notice that the poor consumer doesn't enter the picture at all. And when consumers who, after all, are you and me multiplied many times over, are left out in the cold, neglected and overlooked, then they have a right to ask why they are not worthy of consideration.

Let's consider the matter for ourselves. You and all other housewives have been asking with every justification why you have had to pay increased prices for nearly everything you buy. I've tried to explain that the reason for this increased cost of living was this rise in the prices of primary products. But there is now a very different story running through the world's markets.

The prices of many raw materials such as wool, leather, cotton, and rubber, are all down from 30 to 50 per cent. since the early part of last year, and it is the same with many foodstuffs. The American wheat crop is expected to produce the largest yield ever harvested and the world price of wheat is something like 40 per cent. lower than it was a year or two ago.

The question which we must ask is: "When are the industries of this country going to give consumers the benefit of the lower price of primary products?" This is a matter of interest to every housewife in the country, and consumers have a right to expect a return to a lower cost of living.

The Co-operative Movement is not subsidised. It doesn't need a subsidy. Long ago it discovered the secret of taking the profit out of price. The Co-operative Movement is the only guardian of the consumer. Take, for example, a few household products. Compare the price of soap in a private trader's shop with the price of the best co-operative soap, and you will find that the co-operative soap is lower in price and better in quality. Nor will anyone deny that the loaf of bread, kneaded and baked in co-operative mills and bakeries, and sold over co-operative counters, is the

best value for money that can be obtained. And the co-operative discount on milk purchases is a tangible, concrete saving.

And while we are on this subject of price and value, don't let us forget that the Co-operative Movement for long tested against the practice of including the weight of the parcel in the weight of the goods sold over the counters of retail shops. The fact that this is now illegal is due largely to co-operative agitation.

#### WIVES AS BREAD-WINNERS.

One of the questions which is being widely discussed at the present time is whether women should be allowed to keep their jobs after marriage. Some people are against it on the ground that a woman's place is in the home, others are for it because the higher cost of living means that homes can only be maintained on the joint incomes of husband and wife. Most girls employed in industry, shops, and offices were content to throw up their hands and an opportunity to comfortably marry presented itself. But marriage in these days of high prices does not appeal to them in the same extent that it did when home-keeping was the only outlook for them. Many girls prefer self-supporting independence and to work out their own scheme of life. The marriage on a husband's income. Not a few find after marriage that their husband's earnings are inadequate to keep the home, and feel it necessary to go back to work. That is one of the reasons why flats are preferred to even small houses.

The higher cost of living in the last three or four years has increased the number of homes that are maintained on the joint incomes of husband and wife. It may also be one of the factors responsible for a decreasing birth-rate. A woman can hardly look after children and attend to an outside occupation as well. The day of family allowances may not be so far away as many people suppose. The average earnings of the average man are not sufficient to keep wife and a large family. And if wages as wages are not increased, then some sort of allowance will have to be made in respect of children if the decline in the birth-rate is to be halted.

It is a problem which will in the near future have to be faced. What do you think about it? Are you in favour of (1) Married women continuing to seek after marriage; or (2) family allowances? I should like you to write to me giving your views. We women may have to consider this matter as a question of politics before very long.

#### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Hands get chapped with constant washing up. Keep a jar of glycerine beside the sink and in the bathroom. After drying the hands well, apply them with the oatmeal, leaving a thin film of powder on the hands.

When two or more tumblers become stuck together, pour cold water into the inner tumbler. Then stand the top glass in a bowl of warm water. The glass the inner of which will contract and the outer one expand, and the tumbler can be separated easily.

When the bristles of your scrubbing brush becomes worn, saw off about two inches of the wood at the very end and your brush will be good for another few months.

## Make GOOD HEALTH A FAMILY AFFAIR—with Shredded Wheat every day



When you realize that nothing has ever taken the place of wheat as a food—when you realize that Shredded Wheat is nothing but pure whole wheat prepared to ensure 100 per cent. food value and digestibility. Its value as a health food is paramount. Rich in vitamins and energy-making nourishment, and retaining all the regulative laws Shredded Wheat makes the most beneficial of meals. Its delightful, pleasant flavor is always delicious, whether you have it with milk, butter, honey, or fruit.

## SHREDDED WHEAT

## REMEMBER

## "INTEGRITY" BRAND

Hosiery and Underwear for the Family

ASK TO SEE THE LATEST RANGES AT YOUR SOCIETY

Made by Wigston Co-operative Hosiery Ltd., Wigston

# SHEFFIELD ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COAL PRICES—EXPLOITATION RAPID RISE IN CONTRACT FIGURES

By Councillor J. W. Holland, J.P.



The Electricity Committee, in submitting their minutes for the August Council meeting, asked the City Council to confirm the contracts for the period commencing August 1st, 1938. This series of contracts was for 379,500 tons of slack quality of coal for

boilers at an average price of 19s. per

This mere statement of fact may not be very impressive, but by comparison with previous prices a rather alarming position is shown.

A few months ago the Education Committee were called upon to pay 37s. 6d. per ton for coke, for the heating of schools, as against 15s. 9d. per ton the contract price of only two years ago, and now comes this increase in price of 6s. 4d. per ton to the Electricity Committee as compared with 1935-36.

The following is a statement of the quantities and prices of coal consumed and paid by the Electricity Department in the period indicated.

Year ending March, consumed.	Tons.	Contract average price.
1936	251,614	12/8
1937	339,575	14/11
1938	371,000	16/1 1/2

Current Period Estimate 379,500 ... 16/-

Whilst it may be appreciated that prices in general during the period mentioned have increased, no one will claim that such increase has been anything like the 50 per cent. as shown from 12s. 8d. to 19s.

### Where is it going?

Certainly not to the miners, in spite of the small increase of wages now paid to them, though the average of the increase quoted by the owners usually includes salaries as well as wages, therefore giving a false position, when considering the wage earners' circumstances.

### NO DIRECT PURCHASE.

The prices quoted above are those paid to the coal agents, as the coal owners will not sell, even to such a large consumer as the Sheffield Corporation, except through agents.

Whilst the Coal Mines Act selling schemes allow for the consumers to protest against the unfair increase in price they are called upon to pay, the machinery to consider any protest is such that no consumer can hope to get a fair deal, as the owners and their agents have too much balance on the tribunals, whilst the industrial prices charged to the large firms cannot be obtained.

It is known to be on a much lower basis, the figure cannot be ascertained, by the municipal undertakings or general public who may wish to protest at the prices they are called upon to pay.

The object of municipal electricity departments in common with all electricity undertakings is to generate electricity at the lowest possible cost. To achieve this object over four-and-

a-half million pounds of capital expenditure have been incurred in the replacement of old, inefficient plant and the provision of additional plant during the past ten years, whilst during the same period the price outstanding has increased by only one-and-three-quarter millions, and up to date no less than one-half of the total capital invested in the undertaking has been redeemed, thus contributing in no small measure to the factors which have enabled the costs of production to be reduced from 830d. per unit sold in 1923 to 520d. per unit sold in 1938.

The cost of coal and handling in 1923 was 208d.; the cost of coal and handling in 1938 was 374d.

### INCREASE IN FUEL COSTS.

Whilst other costs have enabled a reduction of .3d., the portion borne by coal owing to the increase in price is only .216d., leaving .254d. to be borne by wages, salaries, capital, &c., involved in generation and distribution.

Whilst the success achieved by our engineers has enabled a reduction in charges received per unit of 1.132d. to 532d., the coal trade seem determined to use their opportunity to exploit the position by excessive prices.

The position here indicated is one which, I suggest, calls for attention by local authorities and the M.P.s in those areas where the municipalities have electricity undertakings. There is a ramp on, it should be stopped.

## SHEFFIELD CORPORATION L.M.S. & L.N.E. RAILWAYS JOINT OMNIBUS COMMITTEE

Enquiry Office  
**MOORHEAD**  
Dial 25342

Rail and Road Enquiry Office  
**L.M.S. STATION**  
Dial 21969

## SUMMER TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

### BUSES TO FOX HOUSE

Routes 40, 72, 84  
FARE FROM MOORHEAD

6d. EACH WAY

### WALKING TOUR TICKETS

### COMBINED ROAD & RAIL TICKETS

### CIRCULAR TOUR TICKETS

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 1d.).

### ASHOPTON

Situate in the beautiful Derwent Valley  
Route 49. Buses from Leopold Street  
Fares: Single, 1/- Return, 1/8

### BAKEWELL

One of the most picturesque towns in Derbyshire  
Route 37, via Owlver Bar. Route 40, via Calver  
Fares: Single, 1/1 Return, 2/8

### BASLOW

Within easy walking distance of Chatsworth Park

ROUTE 31  
Buses from L.M.S. Station and Moorhead  
Fares: Single, 1/- Return, 1/10 From Moorhead

### BUXTON

The Peak District Spa Celebrated Thermal Springs

ROUTE 34  
Buses from L.N.E. and L.M.S. Station and Moorhead  
Fares: Single, 2/6 Return, 4/6 From Moorhead

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The Peakland village with historic castle and great caverns

ROUTE 72  
Buses from L.M.S. Station and Moorhead  
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Sunny Lanes and Woodland Shade  
Route 40. Buses from L.M.S. Station & Moorhead  
Single fare from Moorhead, 8d

### HATHERSAGE

See amidst beautiful moorland surroundings  
Route 72. Buses from L.M.S. Station & Moorhead  
Single fare from Moorhead, 10d.

### HUDDERSFIELD

Via Fifth Park, Chapeltown, High Green, Wortley, and Kirkburton  
ROUTE 86  
Buses from Exchange Street  
Fares: Single, 2/9 Return, 4/4

### LEEDS

Via Ecclesfield, Hayland Common, Barnsley, and Wakefield  
ROUTES 91, 92, and 97  
Buses from Exchange Street  
Fares: Single, 3/6 Return, 5/6

### MANCHESTER

Via Middlewood, Stockbridge, Floss, Woodhead, and Stalybridge  
ROUTE 48  
From L.M.S. Station and Exchange Street  
Fares from L.M.S. Station: Single, 3/8 Return, 5/10

### RIVELIN DAMS

Often called the Switzerland of England  
Route 54. Buses from Leopold Street  
Fare, 5d. Single

### RINGINGLOW

For the Barbage and Houndkirk Moorlands  
Route 27. Buses from City (Flat Street)  
Fare, 4d. Single

### OUTER CIRCLE MOTOR BUS SERVICE

A COMPREHENSIVE TOUR OF SHEFFIELD'S SUBURBS

### MALIN BRIDGE

Through Rivelin Valley to Crosspool and Sandycote, Ecclesall Road, and Carterknowle Road to Graves Park, passing Gleadless, Elm Tree and Darnall, also Shiregreen and Southey and back to

### MALIN BRIDGE

Fares  
Adults 1/3 Children 9d.

### FULWOOD

for a short evening Walk  
BUSES FROM LEOPOLD STREET  
FARE 2d.

Division Street, Sheffield, September, 1938

H. WATSON, Secretary

# ON TO AUTUMN

The best of Autumn Fashion Guides is a visit to "THE ARCADE" just now. Each department is showing the very newest ideas and the Fashion Sections are presenting their Early Autumn models.

## **Special Dividend Offers Beginning September 7th In Drapery, Footwear, Tailoring, Outfitting, and Furnishings**

### **NEW AUTUMN FABRIC DISPLAYS**

on the Ground Floor in great variety.

### **FOOTWEAR**

as smart as you could wish and thoroughly reliable in wear. See the Ecclesall Road and Arcade windows for the latest designs.

### **IT'S TIME TO THINK OF WINTER TAILORING**

We carry an extensive stock of Ready-Mades in all the new styles and materials in a wide range of fittings for Men, Youths, and Boys.

Our Bespoke Tailoring gives the utmost satisfaction—why not give us a call and look over the new materials for the coming season?

### **THE FURNITURE SHOWROOMS**

are replete with new Autumn goods—a stroll round will give you a new conception of comfort in the home this winter.

### **SEE THE NEW CURTAIN FABRICS IN THE SOFT FURNISHING BASEMENT.**



### **MANNEQUIN PARADES AND FASHION OPENING**

*Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Friday*

*September  
20th, 21st and 23rd  
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SPECIAL EVENING SESSION  
WEDNESDAY at 6-30.

NO TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.

Whatever you contemplate purchasing, remember the "Arcade"—we have everything you require at as reasonable a price as you would pay elsewhere with Dividend in addition at 1/10 in the £—A CLEAR SAVING!

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and  
Ecclesall  
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