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NOVEMBER, 1938

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No. 163

## THE CRISIS—BEFORE AND AFTER Mr. Alexander's Prophecy and Further Warning

During the recent crisis Mr. A. V. Alexander, the Member for Hylborough, lost no time in putting his position quite clearly before the electors, addressing three well-attended meetings in his constituency, at which his remarks received the whole-hearted approval of the electors.

### MR. ALEXANDER'S PROPHECY

It is interesting to recall that Mr. Alexander prophesied many months ago the debate for which the National Government was actually responsible, for speaking in the House of Commons on April 4th, 1938, Mr. Alexander said:—

"With the League not being used, with collective security at a complete discount, with the old game of diplomacy and of making alliances going on again, you will find that Mussolini and Hitler, intent upon the advancement of their programmes and policies, will use Spain in such a way as to be much more dangerous strategically than anything which we have had to face in Western Europe in the last Great War.

You have immediate danger to Czechoslovakia. As I heard it put the other day, you appear to be content to let Austria be lost like a pawn in the game. To-day you are losing, not pawns, but bishops and knights.

At the present rate of progress—rather lack of progress—of the Government we should get to the position where the right hon. Gentleman (The Prime Minister) will make concessions after concessions, going from Mussolini to Hitler and then from Hitler to Mussolini, each playing Box and Cox with him for his favours.

In the end we shall have them rehabilitated, and so remove from the economic difficulties which their own system has created for them, that they will be ready for the achievement in both cases of their present objective, a great Empire. In each case the Prime Minister will have created for the children and grandchildren of the present generation a time of despair, a time of hopelessness and a time when they will look back at the period in which those who ought to have stood for Britain, for the Commonwealth, for democracy, for freedom, and for liberty, had sold them into slavery for generations."

Mr. Alexander took part in the debate on October 4th in the House of Commons, and we print the following extracts from his speech:—

### CZECH CITIZENS' SAFETY NEGLECTED

"The first thing that I think the House is entitled to hear from the Minister who will reply to-night is what is the actual position of those Czech citizens who were resident in Germany, who were arrested or detained in whichever town you like to use, and for whom, so far as we can learn, either from White Paper or from speeches of Government Ministers in the House, not the slightest attempt has been made up to yesterday morning to secure their safety and prevent them from getting into actual physical danger and persecution. I think that, having regard to the way in which the Government have been pushed in a haste from day to day in the last fortnight, it would be futile if we were to find that those people, arrested or kidnapped as hostages by the Germans in Germany, had been left to be

ill-treated and perhaps have their lives forfeited altogether.

"We demand to know to-night what steps are being taken for their protection, because—and I am going to speak very frankly about this—when I hear either from the Archbishop of Canterbury or from Members of this House about the need for prayer and thanksgiving, I want to remind them of the first chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah: 'When you come together to make prayers, do not have blood on your hands. If those people are ill-treated and done to death as a result of the policy of the Government and of the French Government, it will not appeal very much to me or to my friends. This Government will have responsibility, and direct and criminal responsibility, for the lives of those people, and any Minister who really understood the situation and who had experience of diplomacy and foreign affairs and administration would, sitting at the very first interview at Berchtesgaden have laid down stipulations for their safety as a condition of any further negotiations with Hitler, before he took any further steps."

Mr. Alexander put a further question to the Government with regard to what happened in the final statement at Munich. After dealing with the delay in letting Hitler know the actual position that the Government was prepared to take, his Cabinet showed that it was the uncertainty of the Government's attitude that had led Hitler to take the tremendous step of signing an ultimatum to the rest of the world. He pointed out that every small power in Europe will soon be unable to trust the word of the National Government.

### CHAMBERLAIN SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE

Quoting the warnings that had been given by the Leader of the Opposition repeatedly, Mr. Alexander also quoted the Prime Minister as saying in the House of Commons on September 28th—when he was dealing with the first conversation at Berchtesgaden, which lasted three hours, as saying:—

"I very soon became aware that the position was much more acute and much more urgent than I had realised."

"I do not think that is a position in which the Prime Minister ought to have been in," said Mr. Alexander. "It was for too serious a thing for the Prime Minister to discover, when he met the Fuhrer, the dictator, at Berchtesgaden, in this House he said that when he went back a second time to Herr Hitler he was shocked and surprised at the new demands made."

"I do not think that was a position that he ought to have been shocked or surprised, especially in view of the representations that six of us from the National Council made to him before, and which his Foreign Secretary promised to convey faithfully to him. I do not like to hear of surprises because the very kind of condition at which he expressed shock and surprise was that of which we warned

the Foreign Secretary the night before.

"I think we are entitled to say that to our people do not believe that some of those things would have come as such a shock to the Prime Minister if he had been willing to take into his more inner councils and with him on his journeys members of the active staff of the Foreign Office. Apparently he did it at the last moment. I am not a special defender of this or that section of the Civil Service. I think that our great Civil Service is composed of fine people. When people give their lives to a special kind of work at the Foreign Office they have great knowledge of these matters of diplomacy, and it ought to be used, especially when that knowledge is most urgently required."

### WHO WAS THE SAVIOUR OF PEACE?

"I should like to put to the House to-night another aspect of this matter concerning an impression that was left upon my mind and the minds of some of my friends, although not because we had any immediate knowledge at the particular time. When the Prime Minister was being interviewed after having left Herr Hitler, I think at the last interview, and when the terms had been agreed, it was felt that we were unable to recommend them for acceptance to the poor, harassed Czechoslovakian Government, the Prime Minister said to the interviewer:—

"It is up to the Czechs." When I listened to the Minister of Transport to-day with his carefully prepared, written document, read at a pace of about 200 words a minute, all expressing adulation of one man, I thought to myself: It is up to the Czechs. I agree entirely with my hon. friend the Member for Llanelli (Mr. J. Griffiths)—that if there is one special action which saved the peace for the time being in this Europe of ours it has been the action of the Czechoslovakian Government, and if you are to name one man, I think Dr. Benes has a claim. It is true that other countries made their special sacrifices of the peace. I have reports from the Italian Press about the special services of Mussolini, and I have even heard it mentioned that Hitler himself was the only saviour of peace at this time. If we are thanking God at this moment, we should be thanking God for the restraint and the self-sacrifice of the Czechoslovakian. That is where our thanks are needed."

### CAN HITLER BE TRUSTED?

"After a further statement of Mr. Chamberlain's misplaced trust of Herr Hitler, Mr. Alexander reminded the House that:—

"There was a Parliamentary fight, more or less, in this House last February, because, before the Prime Minister started to make a treaty with a Minister who had decided whether a Minister who resigned now or was not right on the words 'now or never.' We have been waiting ever since for a proper implementation of the promises made in respect of that treaty by one dictator. Before we make a binding agreement with the other dictator, we had better see how he keeps his promises in respect of his treaty with his friends." Here Mr. Alexander made reference to former friends whom Hitler himself had foolishly murdered and asked the House: "Is that the kind

of man whom you could go to and convert in one interview into being the basis of your faith in peace in Europe?" He also quoted from the report of Kurt Lubbecke, who writes the book "I Knew Hitler," who for a considerable time was the trusted emissary of Hitler before Hitler finally took power. Hitler said to him:—

"I've got to play ball with capitalism and keep the Versailles Powers in line by holding aloft the bogey of Bolshevism—make them believe that a Nazi Germany is the last bulwark against the Red flood... I can talk peace but mean war."

Another passage:—

"If England opposes a greater Germany at all costs, all right, so, so, so, this time you'll be interested in making Germany so strong that together we could force John Bull to Germany. It will be easier to overthrow Moscow and take the Ukraine if the capitalists are on my side."

And further:—

"I can frighten these gentlemen in London, Paris, and New York if they won't leave me alone. If I'm going to take bombs to show these gentlemen in London, Paris, and New York that I mean business, they can leave them. Don't be afraid—I'll go to the limit when the time comes, but not before... Oh, no, no, not this time you'll be interested in wait. I have only one thought, one—that animates me day and night—to make Germany great, the greatest power on earth."

### COLLECTIVE SECURITY ONLY REMEDY

Mr. Alexander concluded by demonstrating that if the National Government had played the game they would have had the support of the Labour Party on their foreign policy from the very beginning, and that the only remedy was to rally opinion in this country, in the other democratic countries in Europe, and in our Dominions, to the cause of real collective security based upon the rule of law and the support of that law against the aggressor. "Otherwise the world," said Mr. Alexander, "is going to slide down and down into chaos, and our country and our Empire are going to be great losers."

### ALEXANDER'S FINE RECORD IN PARLIAMENT

Speeches of Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., in the House of Commons during the last session filled 109 columns of *Illustrated* about 35,000 words!

Only six other members of the House spoke at greater length.

Mr. W. Leonard (Lanark) and Mr. R. C. Morrison (London) in the Co-operative group filled 30 columns each and Mr. Alfred Barnes (London) 27 columns each.

Others spoke less than 20 columns. Records of divisions reveal Mr. T. Henderson (Tradeston) top of the group with 275; Rev. G. S. Woods (London), 223; Mr. J. E. Green (London) 250, and Mr. Alexander 255. Then followed Mr. Alfred Barnes, Mr. D. Chater, Mr. R. C. Morrison, Mr. F. Broad, and Mr. W. Leonard.

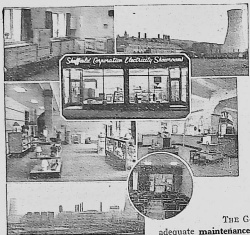


# *but we don't now*

Before we opened our own Optical Department at the City Stores we had our Optical work carried out for us by other opticians. Now, however, that we have a fully-equipped department of our own this arrangement has ceased, and all work is undertaken by our own staff. We would like to make this quite clear, and, at the same time, would suggest that if you are troubled by frequent headaches, or find difficulty in reading or sewing, it would pay you to consult our Optician, Mr. J. C. Nicholson, F.B.O.A. (Honours), who is constantly in attendance and will be pleased to advise you. Why not call or ring Sheffield 23371 for an early appointment. (Recognised by the Ophthalmic Benefit Approved Committee for National Health Insurance Benefit and Opticians by appointment to the Sheffield & Ecclesall Co-operative Society Ltd.)

ISSUED BY THE BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

# LABOUR LEADS IN



Economy and cleanliness in the home, business premises, and industrial undertakings, provided by the cheapest electricity in the country.

Additional **Playing Fields** have been acquired in various parts of the City and **swimming baths** at Woodthorpe, a **new school at Beck Road** and a **new junior school at Shirecliffe** is being erected. In **Secondary Education 120 new places** have been provided at **Arbourthorne**, and a programme approved which includes **two new secondary schools at Abbeydale**, one at **Hurlfield Road** and one at **Halifax Road**. The **Abbeydale and Halifax Road Schools** will have **swimming baths**. Plans are being prepared for a new **Technological Art and Domestic College** in the centre of the City.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

The following is a record of this year's activity: **Firth Park and Ridgeway Road Maternity and Child Welfare and Public Assistance Centres**; **Attercliffe Maternity and Child Welfare Centre**; **new Maternity Block of thirty-two single-bed wards**; **Children's Block at City General Hospital**; **additional Wards and Nurses' Home at Lodge Moor Hospital**; **Swimming Baths**; **Public Wash-house extensions**; **Dustless Refuse Collection Vehicles**; **Refuse Disposal Plant**; and financial provision made to provide additional **Public Conveniences** in various parts of the City.

## TRANSPORT

**Continued improvements in the service.** Increased comfort in travelling, extensions and developments in the provision of new bus services, have all contributed to maintain our high standing in the transport world.

Washday drudgery abolished at our Public Wash-houses.



## TOWN PLANNING

Valuable sites have been acquired by the Corporation to ensure that in the increased values the community benefits and not the individual. The plans for the **Civic Centre** are well advanced. The **Central Transport Station** has been approved, subject to satisfactory arrangements which will shortly be made with regard to **Markets reorganisation**. **Wide roads** have been planned and are being constructed to avoid congestion, to provide safety and to permit of through vehicular traffic making journeys from point to point without difficulty and unnecessary delay.

## ELECTRICITY

The policy of passing on to the consumer benefits in reduced charges made possible by increased efficiency has been continued, and **substantial reductions** to various classes of consumers—domestic, business, and industrial—have recently been approved. It is interesting to note that the charge to slot meter users is the remarkably low one of **3½d. per unit** compared to **8d.** a few years ago.

In November, 1937, the Tory Progressive Party suffered a further smashing defeat owing to their inability to submit a programme and policy acceptable to the electors.

During 1938 in marked contrast the **LABOUR PARTY** have again demonstrated their ability to handle the affairs of our great City with efficiency, and with a vision unknown to the discredited Tory Progressive Party.

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED OR AUTHORISED THIS YEAR** include the following:—

**LOOK AT THE**

LEEDS.....	491,860
MANCHESTER.....	751,371
LIVERPOOL.....	855,698

**THEN LOOK AT SHEFFIELD..... 518,200**

**Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool**

## EDUCATION

The Government has refused Labour's demand for adequate **maintenance grants** for children from fourteen to fifteen years. Labour will interpret beneficial employment solely in the interests of the child. We continue to keep our **School Medical Services** up-to-date. A **Child Guidance Clinic and Ophthalmic Clinic** have been opened, and the planning of a **Hospital at Dore** for children with rheumatism has been carried one step further.

## HOW YOUR ALLOCATION

Statement showing Rates paid by a person living in a house etc. 3½d. per week clear:—

	s.	d.
Rent.....	6	3
Rates.....	3	5½
Water.....	0	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5½</b>

Public Assistance, Police, Housing, Public Health, Sewers and Refuse Collection, Baths and Wash-houses, Parks and Playgrounds, Highways, Libraries and Fire Brigades, Lighting, Abattoirs—houses, Miscellaneous.

## FUTURE

In **EDUCATION** LABOUR has secured that our children to travel from the Public Health Centres to the most efficient health services being provided for the benefit of the community as a whole.

In **HOUSING** LABOUR has secured an excellent programme, passing on the benefits to the citizens.

In **TOWN PLANNING** LABOUR has secured that the quarters—to benefit individuals and the community as a whole.

In **TRANSPORT** LABOUR has secured that all benefits accruing from the new transport services be passed on to the users of road transport.

In **RATING** LABOUR has secured that the ability of the individual be maintained.

LABOUR recognises that it is impossible under the present system to reduce the rate of taxation in order to increase the standard of living.

**IF YOU BELIEVE IN MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT, WISE SPENDING, ENLIGHTENED PROGRESS AND COMMUNAL WELL-BEING**

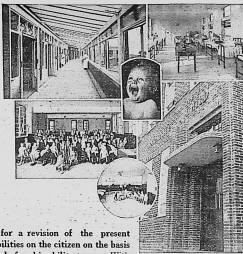
**VOTE**

# CIVIC PROGRESS

## FIGURES:—

Rates per head of population, 1937.	Net Debt per head of population, 1937.	No. of houses erected by Local Authority during last two years.
£5 0 9	£50 16 7	3,049
£6 3 4	£61 18 11	3,449
£5 3 10	£58 5 5	3,612

Owing to the movement of the population to the estates, it has been decided to decentralise the machinery for refuse disposal. Works are to be erected which will have for their main object the production of electricity from the heat value of the refuse. One such building is to be erected at Penistone-road on the site of the obsolete and inadequate incinerator there. The project will reduce disposal cost by some shillings per ton, and will improve working conditions of employees as well as produce electricity.



Maternity and Child Welfare. The care and well-being of Mother and Child our first consideration.

## THESE:—

£4 19 2	£50 4 5	4,218
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are controlled by Tory Councils

## RATES

LABOUR has continuously pressed for a revision of the present out-of-date system which imposes local liabilities on the citizen on the basis of the type of house in which he lives instead of on his ability to pay. With the assistance of the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Government were requested to appoint a Royal Commission to examine the problem. This has been turned down. LABOUR will, however, continue to press for equity of treatment to the householder and shopkeeper. In the meantime, Parliamentary sanction will be sought to increase the compounding limit above £13 rateable value, thus enabling a much larger number of ratepayers to pay rates in with rent.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

It is no credit to this country that widows, orphans, and the aged in receipt of pensions have to seek public assistance, and there is no justification for the exclusion of large numbers from the provisions of existing legislation. Representations have been made to the Government to increase the number entitled to pensions, to reduce the pensionable age and to increase all pensions to avoid the necessity for assistance from the Local Authority. Labour has been met with a blank refusal, but pressure will be continued.

## HOUSING

Sheffield has maintained its proud record in the country in connection with Slum Clearance and the provision of homes for the people. No less than 2,000 have been completed in the first nine months of this year. A Housing Manager is to be appointed to supervise our Housing Estates on which there are already 25,000 houses. A Joint Committee, representative of Education, Housing, and Libraries, has been appointed to advise the City Council on the provision of social, educational, and recreational facilities on housing estates.

Education in all its phases under ideal conditions.

Sheffield has the best housing record in the country.

## WHY WE ARE DEMOLISHING.

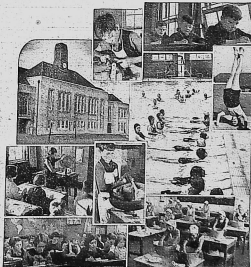
Labour is seeking to condemn for demolition all the houses which are unfit for habitation, since it must do this at the earliest possible moment or the Government Grant is not secured when houses are available for those who are removed from demolished areas. No better service could be done to the citizens of Sheffield than to hurry forward this work, and thus secure the utmost Government assistance for their well being.

## TRADING DEPARTMENTS

The net profits on the trading departments for the year ended March 31st last were as follows:—

Water.....	£ 67,846
Transport.....	230,345
Electricity.....	273,692
Markets.....	11,670
	£577,553

The reserve funds of all the trading undertakings have been strengthened considerably, and now amount to nearly £900,000.



## MONEY IS SPENT

### ON EXPENDITURE

.....	0 10	This sum is based on an assessment of £10 per annum rateable value. If assessed lower you pay less; if higher, you pay more in proportion.
.....	0 7	
.....	0 1	
.....	0 13	
.....	0 51	
.....	0 2	
.....	0 0	
.....	0 4	
.....	0 0	
.....	0 0	
.....	0 0	
.....	0 3	
.....	3 5	

## POLICY

extend those facilities which will assist the University.

will pursue the extended development project the protection and improvement of the city.

ensure the acceleration of an already rapid vigour for decent housing for all

will assist all attempts—from whatever source—of the community.

CITY LABOUR will guarantee that development of the two services shall

be to press for a scheme based upon the Civic Services.

development of Municipal Socialism based by National Tory legislation. In the best use of the Municipal Administration and well-being of the people.

MUNICIPAL REACTION  
CHISEPARING ECONOMY  
MUDDLED STAGNATION

THE PRIVATE INTERESTS OF  
THE FEW

## LABOUR

# Well! What is in a Name?

**T**HIS much! In advertising a product a lot of money is spent to convince you of the value of asking for that particular product by name. It guarantees you standardisation and maintenance of quality, etc. If it doesn't, you stop buying that product.

**T**O a large extent the three letters, "C.W.S.," have become recognised as the attribute of quality—representing honest value, T.U. production, and T.U. distribution (because C.W.S. products are available only through co-operative societies). In a word, good goods made in the consumer's (your) interests.

There's a lot in those three letters. It will pay you to prefix all your orders with "C.W.S."

Advertisement of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

## INTEGRITY<sup>SM</sup>

BRAND

AFTER exhaustive tests over the last twelve months we are using the new unshrinkable REPTON "DRI-SOL" Pure New Wool, absolutely UNSHRINKABLE  
All sizes in stock at your stores

## '13' M.P. VESTS AND PANTS

Underwear De Luxe

Made by WIGSTON CO-OP ERATIVE HOUSERS LTD. WIGSTON

Shopping for Health means  
**SHREDDED WHEAT**



The Food for General Fitness

## CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

### ATTERCLIFFE.

The Attercliffe Divisional Council held a meeting at the Burnal Labour Hall on Thursday, October 13th, when Councillor J. Dimbleby, J.P., gave an interesting address on "Municipal Politics."

The Party is considering the advisability of meeting as separate ward organisations in the future. The scheme of reorganisation will be put before the next meeting of the council, of which members will be notified by post.  
Secretary: Mr. J. S. Worrall, 747, Prince of Wales-road.

### BRIGHTSIDE.

A meeting of the Brightside Divisional Council will be held on Saturday, October 29th, at 7.30 p.m., in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute, Bellhouse-road, when Councillor W. Ashby, J.P. (leader of the City Council), will speak on "Local Government." The meeting will be followed by a social.

**Burgreave Women's Section** meetings held in the Burgreave Vestry Hall, Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. Velland, 130, Scott-road.

### HILLSBOROUGH.

On October 6th the Hillsborough Co-operative Party held a workers' meeting, which was addressed by Councillor W. Slack, Mr. W. Berry (candidate for Hillsborough), Mr. P. Handley (candidate for the Party organiser), and Mr. A. Ballard, date for Orkleton, on Mr. A. Ballard, the Party organiser. On the 13th a successful dance was held. There will be no further meetings except for election meetings until November 3rd, when Councillor R. Fisher will be the speaker; 10th, a carnival dance will be held in the Institute; admission 2s. Speakers for November 17th, Mrs. Gwynne, and 24th, Mr. Craddock.

The **Women's Section** which meets on Monday alternates in the Institute, held a successful social on October 3rd; 10th, Mr. Luther Hoyland (candidate for Walkley) was the speaker; 17th, Mr. A. Ballard, the Party organiser, spoke on "The Co-operative and Labour Parties' Achievements in Sheffield Municipal Administration, and Their Future Policy." Further meetings are suspended for the election campaign. The programme for November opens with a social on the 7th; 14th, Councillor R. Fisher on "Poor Law"; 21st, Mrs. Ludbrook on "Utopian Thought," and 28th, Mrs. Fletcher will speak on "The Three Cs."  
Meetings of the **Wadley and Wisewood Section** are held in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road, Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m. Secretary: Mr. W. Stephenson, 47, Finsdon-road.

### NEEPSEND.

The Neepsend Party met on Wednesday, October 12th, to hear the City Council Report given by Councillor F. W. R. Stokes. Mr. L. Baines, the secretary, has recently removed, and his new address is 58, Deedland Avenue.  
Meetings of the **Women's Section** are held Monday afternoons in the Co-operative Institute, Mannes-street. Secretary: Mrs. E. Watson, 125, Foulkes-street.

### SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Section reports a successful social on October 6th; 13th, Councillor R. Fisher gave the City Council report, dealing especially with the Electricity Department, stating that the reduced charges were proof of the excellent administration of this Party. Reference was also made to the annual report of the Libraries Committee, which has drawn a favourable comment and congratulations from such a keen opponent of Labour as Major Whittaker.

The Party is fully prepared for a fight, but at the time of writing, it does not appear that there will be a contest in the Neepsend Ward, of which this section forms a part. The Party takes it as an appreciation of the fact that it is in which their representatives have kept them in the ward informed on civic administration at their monthly meetings, by the distribution of the "Sheffield Co-operative" and other methods. Secretary: Mr. C. A. Holder, 84, Soutley Hall-road.

## PARTY NOTES

**Women's Meetings** held Wednesday afternoons in the Co-operative Institute, Southley-avenue. Secretary: Mrs. Albon, 263, Ivingham-road.

### SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Divisional Party meets in the Co-operative Institute, Napier-street, every Monday at 8 p.m. A waist drive is held the last Monday of each month, commencing 7.30 p.m., Admissions 6d.

The **Women's Section**, which meets in Room 2 of the Institute on Tuesday afternoons, report a visit from Dr. Eaber, of the Child Guidance Clinic, on September 29th, when an extremely interesting address was given, and keen discussion ensued. On October 6th, reports were received from various conferences. On the 13th, Mrs. J. Billam spoke on "Charles Kingsley," as one of the pioneers of social reform interested in the co-operative movement, and a protestant against every form of food adulteration, bad labour conditions, and so on. His advocacy of a working-man's college was indicative of his keen desire for the workers to take full advantage of all educational facilities so as to take their part in government. October 20th, a speaker on the Sheffield Amalgamation Educational Scheme; 27th, no meeting. Members are expected to report in their various wards for service in the municipal election campaign.

Programme for November: 3rd, a waist drive; 10th, Mrs. Miller, J.P., will give an address on "A Day in Prison"; 17th, Mrs. J. Pointer, J.P., will be the speaker, and on the 24th, play-readings will be given by the Sheffield and Ecclesall play-readers.  
Secretary: Mrs. E. Williams, 8, Dart-square.

## THE ECONOMY DRIVE BEGINS

### A THREAT TO EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Opening a new school at Rhyl on October 12th, Lord Stanhope, president of the Board of Education, announced an alarming development of Educational Policy in the direction of free economy at the expense of secondary education. Restrictions are to be placed on the expenditure and replacement of secondary schools, made the necessary. His forthcoming circular would announce that expenditure on the building of secondary schools was to be limited for the time being to the provision of new schools or the extension of existing schools to meet the needs of increased local population. Authorities would not for the time being be able to replace or improve existing schools, except where considerations of health made this necessary. He believed that local authorities would feel that while they were engaged on the vital but expensive needs of elementary education, this method of conserving resources was not merely wise but necessary.

The "National" Government has consistently shown its readiness to secure short-sighted economies at the expense of the vital social services. Education is one of the services which has suffered most. The older school child has already suffered from the reduction of free places in secondary schools, and from the failure to re-open schools, and from the reorganisation connected with the reorganisation, and will be included in the Education Report, and will suffer from the exemption clause in the Government's School Leaving Age Act.

As Mr. Greenwood declared in the House of Commons on July 28th during the debate on health administration, any pressure to inaugurate a new drive for economy at the expense of the social services will meet with the sternest opposition from the Labour benches. "Important," he said, "as rearmament may be, the quality of the human material which is the great eventuality of war would be called upon to use the means of war, is at least as important."

## THE VIRTUES OF COMPETITION! FLEEING THE COMMUNITY

**Prices of Coal and Coke.**—The following shows the quantity of coal consumed by the electricity department in Sheffield and reveals an increase in price of 50 per cent. from 1935, for which there is no justification whatever—

Year ended	Tons Consumed	Average Contract Price s. d.
March, 1936...	254,634	22 8
March, 1937...	339,575	14 11
March, 1938...	371,000	16 11
Current Period		
Estimate.....	379,500*	19 0

\* To be increased to 450,000.

The same story in relation to coke for the heating of schools. A few months ago the Education Committee were called upon to pay 31s. 6d. per ton, as against the contract price of two years ago of 15s. 9d. per ton.

**A.R.P. Profiteering.**—In Essex, the price of sandbags rose in a day from 21d. to 10d. In Yorkshire, within five minutes of arrangements being made for trenches to be dug, the price of timber was raised by 1s. a standard. In Edmonton, costs of materials rose from 50 to 100 per cent. on emergency orders. A syndicate in the East End of London bought 500,000 sandbags at 1s. 6d. each, and resold them in a few minutes for 6s. each.

In many districts a demand is being made for Government action to be taken before the bills are paid, so as to prevent an intolerable and unnecessary burden being put on ratepayers.

**Transport.**—The Sheffield Transport Committee advertised for tenders for structural steelwork in connection with the new bus garage at Shoredam-street. Thirty tenders from manufacturers and agents all over the country all amounted to exactly the same amount—£9,986 5s.

So much for the virtues of competition—the gospel of the Tory Progressives! The Sheffield Corporation decided some years ago to build its own tramcar bodies; the project has been an unequalled success. The department has now been so organised as to make possible the erection of bus bodies. One has been built as an experiment, and the result shows that we can build them cheaper than outside suppliers.

The Sheffield and District Area of the National Federation of Builders' Merchants suggested that the Sheffield Corporation should charge 20s. instead of 8s. 6d. for dust-bins. The Labour-controlled City Council refused to increase the charge as already an adequate profit is made at 8s. 6d.

The application was signed by a Tory Progressive Council!

## TUBERCULOSIS REVELATION SHEFFIELD'S FAVOURABLE POSITION

BY COUNCILLOR H. SLACK (Secretary, Culinary Union).

GREAT improvements have been made in Sheffield during the past fifteen years in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. There were long waiting-lists of sufferers in need of sanatorium treatment. Many must have died while waiting for beds owing to the limited accommodation at that time. This has now been altered. The staff has increased and the equipment both increased and improved.

The figures in the Medical Officer's Report reveal the improvement that has taken place. The number of cases notified in 1937 was 2,759, whereas, in 1937, there were 7,109 cases. But even this is not a true reflex of the position, because in the earlier period suspect cases decided following the Queen's Road Clinic for examination. To-day, people feel more hopeful that something can be done for them.

A comparison of the deaths in Sheffield from tuberculosis for the same periods is as follows—

1927.....	886
1937.....	799

The figures for 1937, of the five largest cities of comparable size per million of population are as under—

Sheffield.....	799
Birmingham.....	802
Liverpool.....	928
Manchester.....	1,044
Leeds.....	856
Average for all towns in England, over 200,000 population	890

Sheffield compares very favourably here, especially when taking into account the weighting of Sheffield's figures by its cutlery and grinding industries. There are 55 per cent. more cutlers, and over four times more grinders, die from tuberculosis than the remainder of the population of Sheffield over the age of fifteen years. Therefore, it can reasonably be claimed that, were it not for these industries, Sheffield would be first in the country for its immunity from this dreaded disease.

Some people are more concerned about the cost of such services to the rates. The cost of tuberculosis in the meat in Sheffield is less than 6d. in the pound. The total cost of the health services of the city is 2s. 9d. in the pound.

All meat coming into Sheffield is now inspected by Government inspectors or by inspectors of the City Abattoir. The Tory Progressives objected to this, and one of their number moved the deletion of the clause bringing such inspection into operation. Several tons of meat are condemned and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption every year, and the destruction of this said meat prevents diphtheria, disease, and possible death.

## ANOTHER LABOUR SUCCESS IN NEW ZEALAND

At a time when the forces of reaction have triumphed in the continent of Europe, the news of the sweeping victory gained by the Labour Government in the New Zealand elections comes as a tremendous encouragement to Socialists and democrats everywhere.

Three years after it first took office in 1935, the Labour Party has been returned to power with the loss of only one seat. Furthermore, the 49,125 votes cast for it constitute a record in the Party's history, representing an increase of over 100,000 votes on the poll in 1933, when the Party received 392,000 votes.

Against Labour's 24 seats, the Nationalist Opposition has secured only 24 on a poll of 356,000 and the Independents two on a poll of 25,000. The results are the more remarkable since for 68 seats there were stringent fights between Nationalists and Labour whereas in 1935 there were many three-cornered contests.

As Mr. Savage, the Prime Minister, said in his broadcast address, Labour's victory is a greater one than ever before, since the electors supported it knowing the benefits which its policy brought in practice. Labour was fighting this time not merely on a programme but on a record. It was able to claim that the whole of the programme which it had put before the electors in 1935 had been carried out. In 1933 the Dominion had been reduced by four years of "National" government to a condition of extreme poverty and depression. Under a regime of wage cutting and false economy at the expense of the social services, purchasing power had decreased and unemployment increased to an unprecedented extent. The Labour Party came to power with a Socialist and expansionist programme which aimed at providing every citizen with a secure and decent income.

Labour was pledged to assume control of the central credit system so as to ensure the maximum utilisation and distribution of the Dominion's resources; to ensure a guaranteed price for farmers; to provide a statutory minimum wage; to restore cuts in wages and salaries; to increase and extend pen-

sions; and to promote employment through schemes of productive development. All these pledges have been fulfilled. Unemployment has been enormously reduced by the Government's public works policy. Agricultural—and consequently general—prosperity has been restored.

Furthermore, New Zealand has led the world in establishing a 40-hour, five-day week without loss of wages. The Government will now be able to proceed with its National Socialism plan, which will ensure to every citizen a pension of 30s. a week at 60 and establish a system of free doctoring and hospital treatment.

The New Zealand Labour Party's victory is a true victory for Socialism—a vote of confidence in Socialist administration and a mandate for a renewed instalment of bold Socialist planning.

It is a lesson to the British people that prosperity can only be achieved by the fundamental economic reconstruction.

## QUEEN MARY OPENS LABOUR HOSPITAL EXTENSION

MR. ALEXANDER PRESIDES

The second new wing of Manor House Hospital—the Labour hospital at Golders' Street—was opened on Monday, October 24th, by Queen Mary. The cost of the new wing is approximately £50,000.

Presenting the opening ceremony was Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P., who is president of the Industrial Orthopedic Society, and among his supporters were Sir Hans Isaac, Mr. J. W. Lishlock (secretary), and Mr. J. Worley (president of the Co-operative Congress).

The Queen had expressed her desire that instead of receiving a presentation, the cost of any gift should be allocated for the purchase of books for the hospital library, which will henceforth be known as the Queen Mary Library. At present the library comprises about 3,000 volumes.

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