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# HIT AT LIFE LINE

## Sea Threat To Britain

Not the least of the charges to be brought against the "National" Government's disastrous foreign policy is the rapid deterioration in the last few years of the strategic position which has to be faced by the Royal Navy.

The Spanish struggle now going on has once more proved that sea power is vital to any nation at war and depending upon supplies from abroad. To it more essential than to any other nation in the world. We must import nearly two-thirds of our requirements in food and raw materials.

Take only the principal imports into the United Kingdom in 1937 of really important commodities:

Metals and metal ores amounted to 10,239,000 tons;

Food commodities (excluding such items as fresh and canned fruit, vegetables, and fish) 17,117,000 tons;

Raw materials other than metals 26,777,000 tons;

In other words, a total tonnage of vital commodities of 54,133,000 tons.

Our experience in the Great War proved the enormous task of defending these imports against the single might of the German Navy. Yet we had the largest tranched fleet the world had ever seen supported by the fleets of France, Italy, and Japan for practically the whole war period, and the United States' fleet for the last eighteen months.

When the Naval Treaty of 1920 was signed, the German Fleet was a negligible quantity. In the light of the limitations of the Fleets of other Powers, the strength of our Fleet was relatively great (excluding the U.S.A.) then in 1924.

The foreign policy of the "National" Government, with its retreat from collective security, and its failure to substitute for that security even effective alliances based on the balance of power, has brought about a change in relative naval strengths which to the ordinary citizen must be almost unbelievable.

Germany, Italy, and Japan now definitely stand together. The combined fleets of these three Powers, already increased and still rapidly expanding, form a much more formidable threat at sea than that of the powerful German fleet of 1914.

Against these three fleets, Britain has the certain co-operation of the French Navy. The United States might be drawn into any possible conflict, in which event her powerful fleet would be a considerable factor, but there is no certainty that it would be available immediately on the outbreak of hostilities.

Even so, the greater part of the U.S.A. fleet would be required to offset the Japanese in the Far East. While this would relieve us from the necessity of sending a really large fleet to the Far East, the combined naval strength of Germany and Italy would require a very large proportion of the principal English and French fleets to offset them.

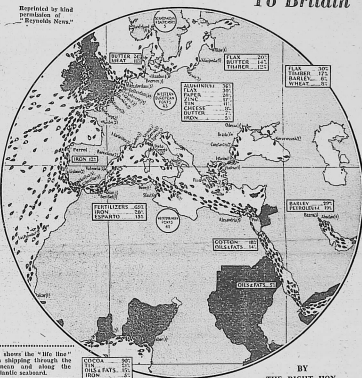
Mr. Chamberlain has repeated on many occasions his conviction that economic resources would be a determining factor in war. I therefore pay special attention to the increasing threats to our world communications, without which our economic resources cannot be fully mobilised or maintained.

The importance of these communications can be readily appreciated by a glance at the accompanying map. It represents the position, afloat and in port, of our merchant ships above 3,000 tons on November 24th, 1937.

Consider the vulnerability of British shipping in the Red Sea to air attack from Italian bases in Eritrea, and susceptibility to submarine attack from Port Said to Gibraltar.

Even the smaller Italian submarines, with the lowest endurance and shortest range would be important factors, from Tripoli in the Southern Mediterranean

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BY  
THE RIGHT HON.

A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.

required for work with the Fleet, is in my view inadequate.

We have about 20 destroyers, built, building, or projected, including overage ships and a small number in the Canadian Navy and the Australian Navy. No new destroyer programme was budgeted for in the last Estimates, and it is important to note that in the last few years we have been building large size destroyers of about 1,700 or 1,800 tons, costing between £600,000 and £700,000 each, such as the Tribal, Kelly, and Javelin classes.

While these ships were, no doubt, required in answer to the large fleet type of destroyer built by Japan and Italy, it is essential both from the point of view of having sufficient vessels to meet the submarine menace, and with reasonable economy, to provide some flotillas of smaller, light vessels with sufficient speed to be effective, and costing one-third or less the amount required to build large destroyers. I hope that this point will be dealt with in the coming naval estimates.

This menace, however, must be aided by operations against submarine attack by fleet aircraft, and by the adoption without delay, if hostilities should break out, of the convoy system.

The importance of this issue is (Continued on page 2.)

This map shows the "Life Line" of British shipping through the Mediterranean and Atlantic seaboard.

to Naples; and from submarine bases established at Palma in the Balearic Islands tremendous havoc could be done to the congested stream of ships steaming westward to the Straits of Gibraltar.

Note also that on the Atlantic side of Gibraltar the exodus of ships from the Mediterranean is met by the South American shipping, which may have to face new losses from which enemy attacks would pour forth at Cadiz and the Canary Islands.

Further north the stream of traffic is joined by the Panama, West Indian, and North American traffic, and the old Spanish naval bases at Ferrol on the north coast of Spain might be used, it has been argued, by German submarines to cut the British sea communications at this point, and here again this could be done by comparatively small submarines.

It is in the light of such considerations, in addition to the danger of France being assailed on all her land boundaries at once, that it is so difficult for us to understand the quiescent attitude of the "National" Government on German and Italian intervention in the Spanish conflict.

Neither Germany nor Italy confine themselves to small submarines. Italy, by her present programme, will have the largest submarine fleet in the world, the largest numbers among that fleet many vessels of from 2,000 to 1,500 surface tons, with high surface speeds, Italy

has a total of about 120 to 130 submarines built or building.

Under the Anglo-German Naval Treaty Germany undertook not to build more than 45 per cent. of British submarine tonnage. Germany now has 72 submarines, built, building or projected, with a total displacement of 31,532 tons, compared to the British tonnage of 72,534, but she is now claiming the right to build up to 100 per cent. of British submarine tonnage.

If she used the whole of the tonnage on large submarines, Germany would soon have 112 submarines. It is more likely that Germany will build a few large submarines of long range and endurance, and complete the tonnage with smaller vessels, so we might be faced with a German submarine fleet of 150 ships.

A great deal of confidence has been expressed that the dangers of submarine attack are much less than in 1915 because of the development of anti-submarine devices. It is true that the use of fast chargers equipped with hydrophones and depth charge apparatus is of very great importance. The effectiveness of such measures must be qualified by the number of enemy submarine bases within a short range of their field of operations.

Large numbers of light vessels, such as destroyers and the faster type of escort vessels, would be required on this work. Our present destroyer strength, allowing for the destroyer flotillas

## HIT AT LIFE LINE

(Continued from page 1.)

emphasised by the reduced strength of our merchant fleet to-day. Compared with 1914 our merchant ships of 100 tons or over show a reduction of 1,741, and in the major class of ships used for ocean-going voyages, i.e., 3,000 tons and over (excluding oil-tankers), we now only have 2,214 as compared with 3,526 in 1914—a reduction of approximately one-third in that type of tonnage required to carry the trade of our Empire communities.

While we must aim to meet the danger which the Prime Minister and his Government have allowed to arise, the real cure for the situation lies in bringing to an end the stupid, futile, and fearful foreign policy that we have been pursuing.

It is no use defenders of the Government arguing that this tremendous growth of Naval strength, and particularly of submarine strength, is not aimed at Britain.

Germany's demand for 20 per cent. of our submarine tonnage is not for defence against Russian submarines, which requires anti-submarine vessels. The enormous and growing submarine strength of Italy, is clearly designed for two purposes: to attack British shipping, and to cut the French lines of communication for the transport of troops from Africa to Europe and vice versa.

With every dose of "appeasement" the totalitarian States become more powerful and a greater menace. The futile non-intervention policy with regard to Spain should be ended and the Spanish people given the right to obtain the arms to defend themselves. No one believes that a Franco victory will result in the evacuation from Spain of Italian and German troops, airmen, and technicians.

Above all, we should direct our energies to rallying all the Powers in the world who desire constructive peace and the maintenance of that peace by the establishment of the rule of law instead of the rule of force to make it clear to the totalitarian States, the only sources to-day of potential attacks, that while we are prepared to discuss and negotiate the adjustment of grievances and the bringing of justice to all peoples, we are not yielding our own or other democratic peoples' liberties and freedom.

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# At the City Council THE GOVERNMENT WANTS SHEFFIELD'S ABATTOIR MEAT PURITY GUARANTEE

BY COUNCILLOR H. SLACK

"The 'top of the bill' item at the February Council Meeting was the Regional Abattoir Scheme. Vested interest was out in full force, both in action by the Tory 'Progressives.' The opposition was to the Tory 'National' Government's Regional Abattoir Scheme being put into force in the Sheffield district. (The 'Progressives' criticised the 'National' Government so much on this scheme that probably they will vote for the Labour candidates at the General Election.)

The Government has been inquiring into the conditions under which meat is prepared for human consumption. They have had to pay attention to the experience of Sheffield and other cities which have built abattoirs to ensure a clean and disease-free meat supply for the people.

Then the attempts of evasion by a class of butchers having meat killed outside the city in order to avoid inspection. This practice has necessitated new by-laws to compel all meat intended for consumption in Sheffield to be examined at the abattoir even if it has been killed outside the city. But this would entail an army of inspectors to prevent evasion.

Councillor J. Currie, Chairman of the Markets Committee, said that the proposed Regional Factory Abattoir would provide adequate inspection of all meat supplied within the enclosed area, which was that contained within roughly a fifteen-mile radius of the abattoir.

It was suggested by the Markets Committee that they were willing to co-operate with the Livestock Commission should they decide upon the Sheffield Abattoir as one of the experimental slaughterhouses provided an assurance was received from the Government that the Corporation would be indemnified against any financial loss which might occur.

Their opinion was that the Sheffield Abattoir would provide a good unit for experimental purposes. Statements had appeared in the Press that the scheme would increase the price of meat to the consumer, but he did not subscribe to that view.

He understood that all the meat buyers were given an opportunity of putting their views before a Government Committee, when evidence was being collected on the subject of centralised slaughter. He was sure they could very well take the next step forward with the project, as they could withdraw at any time if they felt they should do so.

Alderman Rowlinson referred to the difficulty of dealing with meat that came from unprotected outside areas. He said there was still in existence a type of person who was willing to take his meat further away from where exact inspection operated, and to get away with the sale of meat which was unfit for the public to consume.

A stalwart of private enterprise was the first big gun of the opposition. Councillor J. E. Bennett said they had no promise from the Government to the extent of a single penny. The whole scheme was revolutionary so far as abattoir control was concerned. It was a scheme for handing over to a Commission of the Ministry of Agriculture the control of their abattoirs. Obviously the revolution that Councillor Bennett and his party fear is the nationalisation of the meat trade. They think they can see in this scheme a step in that direction.

He said there had been a bogey talked of that some other town would operate the scheme if Sheffield did not. All he could say was, let them. So when it is a question of ensuring good meat for all the people it doesn't matter only applies when talking of dreams!

Amazing Figures.

The next opponent was Councillor

Oliver (a butcher) and he was interested, if not interesting. To listen to him one would assume that there never has been any but meat put up for sale. But was any but meat put up for sale. On turning to page 28 of the Health Committee minutes being dealt with at this meeting, one finds the following Council meeting, one finds the following reference: "Carcases and part-carcases surrendered as unfit for food—whole carcasses, 60 cattle, eleven calves, six sheep, twelve pigs, fifteen pigs. The total weight of condemned meat being 55 tons, 11 cwt., 1 qr., and this was in one month.

Where did this stuff find its way to



COUNCILLOR H. SLACK

before the abattoir and the strict technical supervision and inspection were inaugurated? No wonder the tuberculosis figures for Sheffield are 50 per cent. less than they were a few years ago.

Opposition from the Butchers.

Councillor W. E. Yorke, Labour Whip, speaking in favour of the scheme, caused a commotion when he said that the butchers' associations had found sufficient money for the 'Progressive' party for them to insist on the members voting against the motion.

There were opposition cries of dissent and Alderman Jackson accused him of being rude. However, continuing, Councillor Yorke said it was a matter of historical record that the butchers had opposed every regulation introduced to ensure clean meat.

At the commencement of the Council meeting the Town Clerk read two letters he had received. One from the Sheffield Wholesale Meat Traders said they would refuse to co-operate in any of the schemes. The one from the Sheffield Butchers' Association protested against the scheme.

Slaughter on the Roads.

Another subject which raised much comment was the number of deaths and injuries due to road accidents. These were contained in the Watch Committee Minutes and the figures for 1938 and 1937 are given for comparison. Killed in 1937 were 45 in 1938 there were 63; injured in 1937 were 2,167, in 1938 there were 2,412.

As Alderman Graves said, this does not tell all the story. We are alarmed at the number of deaths but there were many of the injured die ultimately as a consequence of the accident, and how many of them are injured and incapacitated for life?

Several suggestions were made to deal with motor traffic, but the most effective one is as Alderman Thirvess said, "until there is a good deal more cautious driving on the part of some people this will continue."

St. Paul's Garden.

Some people are always prepared to shed light on expenditure if they are not prepared to shed expenditure on

enlightenment. Councillor Neill ("Progressive") had a number of questions put to the Chairman of the Estates Committee. He wanted to know on whom authority the St. Paul's site was being laid out as a garden, the cost to date, and the ultimate cost, etc. The Chairman replied that the sum voted by the Council for the acquisition and development contained the cost of doing what was being done.

There was a new innovation of this Council meeting as twenty students from the Central Day Commercial College attended in the gallery as part of a course on civic administration which they are taking. Let us hope they will continue to take interest in the democratic control of our city.

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## TWO VIEWS OF MR. CHAMBERLAIN

### WHERE IS THE PROSPERITY?

#### AND WHERE IS THE PEACE?

We have been favoured with a copy of the "National" Tory publication entitled "The Popular Illustrated," which endeavours to show that we are living in a peaceful prosperous country that can only be brought to war by the action of the Labour Party. We are told that the Labour Party is in the air and that Mr. Chamberlain is responsible for the splendid position in which this country finds itself.

#### Prosperity and Peace.

However, as we have 2,000,000 unemployed in spite of the armaments boom, thousands of old-age pensioners in receipt of Poor Law because of the inadequacy of their pensions; and on the best scientific and medical authority there is malnutrition amongst millions of British people; as thousands of acres of agricultural land have gone out of cultivation, and as the depressed areas are still depressed. As we are arming to the teeth and building shelters to protect ourselves from our new-found friends in Germany and Italy—Mr. Chamberlain is entitled to take full credit for the position.

If this is Mr. Chamberlain's achievement in the way of "appeasement," then it is to be hoped that the electors should judge him on results.

The leading article of the "Popular Illustrated" entitled "Prosperity and Peace" pretends that what has been done in a single year by Mr. Chamberlain for constructive peace.

Below we give our version of the record. Readers will be able to recall everyone of the incidents mentioned below:—

#### 1933 was a Year of Trial for Democracy.

In February, following upon personal attacks on Mr. Anthony Eden, by dictators, Mr. Chamberlain forced Mr. Eden's resignation from the post of Foreign Secretary and replaced him by a puppet Minister who was in the pocket of Lords and could not, therefore, answer questions in the people's chamber—the House of Commons.

With Mr. Eden's resignation, the Nyon Agreement, which had stopped the sinking of British ships in the Mediterranean fell into abeyance, and right through the summer British ships upon legitimate trade in Spanish waters were bombarded from the air in violation of Mussolini's instructions.

On defiance of the British Government's policy of non-interference Italy poured men and munitions into Spain.

In March Hitler marched into Austria without any effective protest by Mr. Chamberlain and his French colleagues, although the two Powers were pledged to defend Austrian independence.

In May, after Herr Hitler had stated that he had no other territorial ambitions in Europe, he moved his troops towards Prague, and although Czechoslovakia mobilised, Russia announced its intention to stand by her ally, and world opinion rallied against Nazi aggression, Chamberlain undermined the peace front and concession after concession was rung from Czechoslovakia.

In August Hitler prepared for the attack and Mr. Chamberlain flew to Berchtesgaden, then to Goebbels, then to Munich, and subsequently to Berlin, the defeat of the only surviving democracy in Eastern Europe. Mr. Chamberlain's Government cold-shouldered Austria, shocked German opinion, and was to be told by Hitler that Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Anthony Eden, Mr. Duff Cooper, would not be allowed to resign. High office without causing trouble in Germany.

Then began the foulest pogrom known to persecution's foul history since Hitler's attack upon the Jews.

In the meantime Mr. Chamberlain signed an agreement with Italy recognising Mussolini's rape of Abyssinia, and following upon which Italy immediately cried out for concessions from the League of Nations for Corsica, for Tunis. In addition to which German and Italian bombers and machine gunners have been slaughtering an innocent populace in Spain.

All that Mr. Chamberlain has done is to ask Franco to be merciful!

What has Mr. Chamberlain done during this year for Collective Peace and International Law? What has he done in Geneva? What has he done in relation to Russia or America?

Not a single act of Mr. Chamberlain's has been calculated to establish international law and collective peace. All Mr. Chamberlain has done has been to retreat before the threats of the dictators and he will continue to retreat.

#### Unity Amongst Democracies.

There is no need for war to establish peace. Even now a proper peace pact between Britain, France, U.S.A., and Australia, promoted with vigour and enthusiasm, would lead the democracies to such unity of action as to remove the possibility of war. The only people who threaten war are the dictators, yet as Mr. A. J. C. Cunningham, M.P., in the "News Chronicle" a few days ago: "The dictators in Germany, Italy, and Russia are more delicately poised than they have ever been. If the democracies, instead of shrinking timidly away from bellicose threats, stand up square to the dictators, and give them one good, concerted push, they would be surprised at the ease with which the whole gangster philosophy would fall to the ground."

#### Establish International Law.

Although the dictators constantly threaten war they have never fought against any really well defended nation and they would shrink from the very possibility once the democracies, led by Britain, established a system of real collective security. They were law breakers from the beginning, they are afraid of the establishment of international law.

#### Sheffield Campaign.

The Sheffield Co-operative Party is collaborating with the Divisional Labour Parties in this joint campaign. The first meeting is to be held in connection with the Hallam and Hillsborough Divisions on Friday, February 22nd, when Mr. A. V. Alexander and Mr. C. S. Darcy will address a joint meeting.

The regional rally will be held in the City Hall in March 31st. Particulars are given in another part of this journal. Look out for the Film Displays which will be advertised in our next issue.

#### £1,000 IN TWENTY DAYS

Sir, A Committee has been set up in Sheffield with the object of co-ordinating, strengthening, and extending the work for Spanish relief which is being done in the city.

Through the generosity of Sir Montague Burton a depot has been opened at 100, St. George's, St. Stephen's (entrance by John Bull's) shops. This office will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day (excepting Sundays) for receiving contributions of cash and money. Owing to the extreme urgency of the need the Committee aims at raising £1,000 by February 26th towards the All-Yorkshire Foodshed which will be having Hall the third week in February.

The campaign has the patronage of the Lord Mayor, the Lord Bishop, and many other prominent citizens. This Committee will welcome offers of help for clerical work, being in attendance at the office, and for food and money.

Urgent telegrams and messages from Spain stress that the need for food is even more desperate than it was a few weeks ago, and this Committee is endeavouring to save the lives of these innocent victims of the war.

Contributions should be sent immediately to the Guild Bank, Church-street, crossed "Food for Spain," or to me at Morgate, Cavendish-avenue, Dore, Sheffield, or to the Foodshed, 100, St. George's, St. Stephen's, Sheffield. Yours, &c., Oliver C. Wilson, Treasurer.

## ATTERCLIFFE'S CHOICE FOR CO-OPERATION AND LABOUR

MR. JOHN HYND AS SOCIALIST CANDIDATE



MR. JOHN HYND

Mr. JOHN HYND, who has been chosen to succeed Mr. Cecil Wilson, M.P., at the next election will prove an ideal candidate.

Born in 1903, in Perth, of staunch Co-operative and Socialist parents, Mr. Hynd has all the rugged tenacity and boundless energy of the Scot. Already before he was twenty-three years of age, he was at the same time president of his Divisional Labour Party, chairman of its union branch, represented the R.C.A. on the Scottish Executives of the National Federation of Professional and Clerical Workers, and of the Workers' Educational Trade Union Committee (W.E.A.).

Believing ardently in the strength of unity in the industrial, as in the political, he entered the N.U.C. as an advocate of one union for all railways; was appointed, in 1925, to the union's headquarters' staff in London, where he has continued and extended his multifarious activities, gaining the

T.U.C. Medal for his work in organising London clerks into the N.U.C., whilst carrying on active work in local labour and co-operative politics and fighting several important Council elections as Labour candidate.

A lecturer and writer on international Labour affairs, Mr. Hynd was invited by the International Labour organization of the League of Nations to attend its conference in Geneva last year, when the forty-hour week was being considered.

Through in everything he tackles, the new candidate has made himself proficient in the chief continental languages, and has addressed meetings in various parts of France and in Czechoslovakia during recent years, believes in keeping fit, and is a keen athlete, playing regularly at full-back for the Sheffield House eleven, whilst he has been for four years around swimming champion of his club.

In their new candidate, therefore, Attercliffe has found youth, energy, and intense devotion to the workers' cause. Although recently appointed by his union for the high post of secretary to the Rail, Road, and Air Section of the Sheffield Trades and Workers' Federation, Mr. Hynd has indicated that in view of his adoption by the Attercliffe Labour Party, he intends to relinquish his present office, and devote his whole time and activity to the work of the Attercliffe Party and the maintenance of the Division as a Socialist stronghold.

With such a champion, bringing as he does the high credit of membership of the N.U.C. into the local party, it is confidently anticipated that there will now be an infusion of new life as well as of trade union interest and activity into the Party's work, which may well, with all modesty, be worthy of the Sheffield Labour Movement. S. A.

## ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT ON KENYA

ON Sunday evening, February 26th, a highly successful meeting arranged by the Sheffield and Icclesall Co-operative Party was held in the Education Institute, Napier-street. The speaker was Mr. Kenyatta, a native of Kenya, and an agent of the International African Service Bureau.

Mr. Kenyatta, the author of "Facing Mount Kenya," has not spoken in Sheffield before, but gave a magnificent address upon the position of the native in Kenya, and those in England specially to represent their case.

The natives have been robbed of almost all their land and forced into reservations, and although far outnumbering the white population have not a single representative in the Government of Kenya. Each native is compelled to carry a script giving complete inventory of his life, occupation, &c., contained in a small tin worn round the neck, and he may be found outside the hut without a permit, or imprisonment for three months. They are compelled to pay a hut tax and poll tax which has to be answered by working for a white employer at a wage of 6s. per month.

The speaker instanced the tragic treatment of those who volunteered for the Great War and the farcical reward that was given to them.

"The difficulty of understanding the case of the native was revealed in the fact that a recent Royal Commission on Kenya produced a report of 4,000 pages, which Mr. Kenyatta has spent six months studying in the British Museum."

No native is allowed to grow coffee and a chief who planted a few trees last year was ordered by the Government to cut them down for justice for the natives of Kenya.

The chair was taken by Councillor J. H. Dingham, J.P. There was a musical programme, and the collection for the African Bazaar realised 30s.

## YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEVER HAVE A HOLIDAY

### NEED FOR HOLIDAYS WITH PAY FOR ALL WORKERS

Each year in England and Wales, 615,338 elementary school children have to do without a summer holiday away from home. This fact is published by an official of the Save the Children Fund, who has carried out a survey of the provision made in England and Wales for holidays for school children.

As a result of a questionnaire sent to the 318 local education authorities in the country, asking for information about the number of school children on holidays were provided it was found that out of the 219 who replied, provision for such holidays was made by 37 authorities and by 24 voluntary organisations.

These holidays cater for not more than 75,000 out of a possible 653,353 elementary school children. Local education authorities provided a total of 17,109 holidays during 1927.

Mr. Edward Fuller, of the Save the Children Fund, said that it should be more widely realised that there is a real need for holidays for these children, particularly those living in the poverty-stricken areas. The Government has no substantial extension of the provision of holidays for school children by Local Authorities and other bodies.

Most arguments against the compulsory provision of holidays with pay for all workers which will enable many parents to take their own children to the country for a holiday. The With Pay Act does not provide holidays with pay for any of the 10,000,000 workers who are at present denied this boon. It merely gives them the right to Agricultural Wages Committee, and other wage regulating authorities power to make voluntary agreements for holidays with pay if employers are willing.

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# THOSE NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS AGAIN

All excellent resolves no doubt—most of them hardy old annuals—but how few survive. You have promised yourself the self same things for years past. How many times have you decided that *THIS* year you *would* make a determined effort to save, and how many times have your plans broken down. The way to success lies in *PLANNED* saving. By “planned saving” we mean the habit of regularly setting aside a given amount each week and depositing it in either a savings account or some other form of investment. You will find saving on these lines remarkably easy and we can help you in so many ways. For instance, there are few investments so sound, and offering such an attractive return as our Share and Loan Deposit accounts. Contributions to Share Capital may be made at the general office or any grocery branch and amounts are usually paid on demand. Then there are our many clubs, Trading Club, 20 Weeks Club, Christmas Club, Holiday Club and finally there is our 3½d. Thrift Club, the largest of its kind in the country. (This club, paid out just before Christmas, provides a useful little nest egg, and your money is *PERFECTLY SAFE*.) These various clubs are all further aids to the thrifty. Then too, for the children, there is our ever popular Penny Bank which accepts contributions from 1d. to 10/-. So you see how we can help you to keep that New Year resolution. Make thrift your key-note for 1939. Start saving now. Open an account to-day.

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MR. HON. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., with the secretary of the Southey Community Association at a meeting held recently.  
Photo: By kind permission of the "Sheffield Telegraph."



## ON having your cake —and Eating it!

Of course, you can't have your cake and eat it, can you? At least, the idea that you couldn't was fairly prevalent until the Co-operative

Societies started business, and then co-operators discovered that previously someone had been getting quite a nice slice of cake out of the difference between what they paid for the goods and what the trader paid.

So co-operators came together, found there would be a slice of cake all round if they owned their own shops. And the idea spread to owning their own works. And that, in fact, is just what happened. The "Co-ops." co-operated to found the C.W.S. as their manufacturer and wholesaler. The "slice of cake" takes the form of a dividend. You get it on all C.W.S. products you buy at the "Co-op." without exception.

And, of course, cake is not the only thing we manufacture in our 170 factories.

The great campaign launched by the Labour and Co-operative Parties to destroy the "National" Government is now in full swing. The three branches of the organised Labour movement—the Labour Party, the Co-Trades Union Congress, and the Co-operative Party—are united in a drive to win the General Election for a real Socialist Government with full power to put Labour's Immediate Programme into effect.

We have launched our campaign under the slogan, "Safety Through Strength and Service." We are convinced that Mr. Chamberlain's personal intervention in foreign affairs, his so-called policy of "appeasement," and the failure of his Government to equip the country for defence have produced deep anxiety and distrust among a large and growing section of the community. Each new development of the international situation adds to the feeling of the alarm throughout the country. The alarm brought to Rome, embodied upon at a time when Italian intervention in Spain has been followed by outrageous claims on France, has antagonised even many of those who still hoped that Mr. Chamberlain had some real contribution to make towards European appeasement. The moment is at hand when the British people will call a halt to the process by which the Prime Minister and a democracy makes agreements and enters upon negotiations with Dictatorship Powers and makes disastrous or dangerous concessions to them without popular sanction or electoral mandate of any kind. There is a growing determination that there must be no repetition of the Munich agreement.

Public disquiet is deepened by the appalling inadequacy of our preparations for a defence. Whilst pursuing a policy which has already brought us to the verge of war, the Government has itself admitted that our air defences are in a state of chaos. The crisis showed our A.R.P. system to be utterly inadequate. Yet nearly £1,300,000,000 has been spent on armaments during the past seven years. Britain's claim that expenditure on the social services has impeded rearmament is obviously without foundation.

There are already signs, such as the proposed economy at the expense of secondary education, that the Government is contemplating a fresh attack on the standard of living of the people and that rearmament may be used as an excuse for the imposition of further sacrifices on the lines of those exacted in 1931. No policy could be more shortsighted or more disastrous. Even from a purely strategic point of view—and the appeal to humanity is not less likely to reissue more than the "National" Government—it must surely be obvious that the quality of the human material to be used in the terrible event of war is at least as important as technical rearmament. Expenditure on the social services has been pressed again and again to be a national investment of the most productive kind.

The Government's domestic record reveals the same disastrous inertia which has characterised its foreign policy. At a time when rearmament is in full swing we still have 2,000,000 unemployed. Fresh evidence of widespread and serious maladministration is revealed to us almost daily by Government and official surveys. The Government's neglect of the agricultural industry has led to a widespread revolt among farmers. In all departments of domestic life we see the results of the unfitness of the Government's incompetence and

With these considerations in view, the Labour Party resolved upon the Joint Campaign upon which we have now embarked. Our aim is to put before the electorate with all the means at our disposal our case against the

# PUT LABOUR IN POWER

## LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVE PARTIES' GREAT DRIVE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

BY MRS. AYRTON GOULD, J.P.,  
Chairman of the Joint Campaign Committee

"National" Government's domestic and foreign policy and to set forth in concrete terms our own proposals for the attainment of security and peace. Our opportunity to the electorate will stress seven vital points:—

1. A clear policy for peace. Co-operation with the other peaceful countries for a collective stand against aggression and the evolution of a plan for a system of economic opportunity which will remove the causes of war.
2. Britain's safety first. The reorganisation of the defence services in the interests of efficiency.
3. Work for all at fair wages. A great drive against unemployment and the abolition of the Means Test.
4. Plenty of food at fair prices. A plan for food and farming which will secure a fair price for the farmer, a decent wage for the agricultural labourer, and an adequate food supply at reasonable cost for the consumer.
5. Security for old age. Pensions of £1 a week at 65 on retirement, and of £1 15s. for married couples when the man is over 65 and the wife over 55.
6. Health to be made the nation's business. Decent houses at fair rents, good health services, equal opportunities for all children.
7. Build up the nation's strength. "National service" to include money and resources. Finance, agriculture, transport, coal and power to be made public services under national control.

Special area demonstrations have been fixed in all parts of the country. Co-operative Labour Parties and Co-operative Party organisations will also organise joint meetings locally. Leaflets are being provided for circulation by the million which we plan to deliver into every house in the country. It is hoped that extensive use will be made of the facilities for showing suitable films provided by the Workers' Film Association. Loud-speaker vans will carry Labour's message into the rural constituencies. In short, no effort will be spared to provide the workers in the movement with varied propaganda of the most effective kind. For the rest, we call upon the individual members of the Labour and Co-operative Parties to throw all their energies into this great drive to get rid of the "National" Government and to put a Labour Government with real power in its place.

## 'CURRENT TOPICS' ON ALDERMAN WATKINS

We are happy to reprint recent remarks of "Current Topics" on the proposed rate reduction, which will be confirmed at the next meeting of the Sheffield City Council:—

"We were sorry to hear that Alderman Watkins was unable to attend yesterday's meeting of the Finance Committee at which the Budget was approved, for no one would derive greater pleasure from the decision to reduce the rates than he and the City Treasurer (Mr. A. B. Griffiths). But of them have worked necessarily to maintain the city's finances on a sound basis, and though at times we have had occasion to criticise the policy of the Alderman's Party—and may have again—we have always recognised that he himself is a financial pilot who would not let us and the year with a substantial balance in hand and a record for rapid reduction of debt."

"At the March meeting of the Council we hope to hear him protesting still further reductions in years to come."  
—Sheffield Telegraph and Independent, February 18th, 1930.

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## WOMEN'S NOTES

BY THE WOMAN WITH THE BASKET

### RESTORING THE CHILDREN SHEFFIELD'S HOLIDAY AND REST HOME

"Fairthorn" does marvellous work in receiving weak and ailing Sheffield children and returning them, strong and healthy, to their homes. Some time ago, the Matron took her over the home on a tour of inspection, and I should like to tell you about it.

When I entered the house, which is situated at the far end of Dore village, I received an impression of light and airiness, of immaculate cleanliness and, above all, of comfort and cheerfulness. It was as though the house itself said,

"Come in and stay awhile and be happy here." Some houses are like that—they convey an eternal welcome. You enter and abide there for a time and when you leave your only desire is that you may visit it again.

Such an atmosphere of friendliness surrounds "Fairthorn." Perhaps it is because there is nothing of the "institution" about it. Nothing austere or formal. The Matron does not wear the usual uniform of her office but ordinary dress, as she finds that, thus attired, she quickly gains the confidence and trust of the children who, as we all know, almost invariably become shy and reserved at the sight of stiff, starched cuffs and aprons. It may be only a small point but it makes a world of difference when caring for twenty to thirty children during ten months of the year. It makes the children feel that they have, indeed, arrived for a holiday. Perhaps that is why one child wrote, "I hope the boys settle down like we did. While we were on the bus we were wishing it to turn back and go back to 'Fairthorn'."

Looking through the long windows of the common-room, I had a magnifi-

cent view of Blacka Moor. I felt as though I was miles and miles away from the smoke and grime and grey pallor of the city. I realised what it must mean to those children, so used to the hard pavement of the streets, to the noise of traffic, the unsavoury whirl of city life, to be able to walk as they do peaceful hills and to breathe the fresh, pure air; to be able to take a last look back and see the steep, grassy moorlands and dale, forbidding bricks.

I turned away from the window and surveyed the room, long and lofty, painted a cool green shade—restful to the eyes. In one corner there is a gramophone, a piano stands against the wall facing the windows, settees on two sides and in the middle of the room, tables and chairs—small ones for the young children. When the children are forced to play indoors, these can easily be moved, and the cleared space is used for games.

#### A Housewife's Paradise.

Across the passage is the children's pantry—the cups, saucers, and plates are decorated with a floral design; further along is the staff pantry, and the heart of any housewife. Tiled from floor to ceiling, plenty of cupboards—a large one filling half of one side and others at the sides and under the sink, which has a window immediately above it. An electric cooker and a vegetable basket set in a recess. Underneath a window which runs the entire length of the room is a large drop table, and another stands in the centre. All the

bread and cakes for the children are home-made.

Going up the stairs, I noticed that they were broad and not too close, thereby preventing undue stretching of little legs. The bedrooms, decorated in different colours, have six cots in each. The children do not sleep in room No. 1 or room No. 2, but in the "sunshine" room or the "green" room. The bathroom, with its sunshine tinted tiles, contains eight baths, with a shower over each.

Downstairs again, and a quiet chat with Matron in her sitting room. She tells me that this home differs from some others in the fact that although the children come in term time, they are not given any lessons, but spend their time as far as the weather will allow in the open air.

The children rise at 8 o'clock, and breakfast is half-an-hour later. Each child has a separate locker, clothes peg, towel, tooth and hair brushes, and comb, all of which are numbered, so that each child knows his or her own. After breakfast the older children make their beds and leave the bedroom tidy. At 10 o'clock they are ready for the morning walk or games in the two fields belonging to the house. Lunch is served at one, and then from two to three there is a period for rest. If the weather is warm enough for tea outside, picnic hampers are packed for the afternoon walk; otherwise tea is taken at five in the common-room. After tea, until seven, is playtime—there is a large doll's house and play bricks for the younger children. After having their baths, the children are given a glass of milk, and all are in bed by eight.

#### Learning Thrift.

When the children arrive, they "deposit" their pocket money in the "bank," the "manager" of which is the Matron. On a Friday they "withdraw" a small sum to be spent at the tick shop in Dore village. On a Sunday the older children go to church. Is it any wonder that, with such a programme, the children are happy and contented?

This delightful home is maintained and managed by Sheffield teachers and voluntary subscribers through the organisation known as the Sheffield (Continued at foot of next column.)

### CHILDREN WITHOUT PROPER FOOTWEAR

INADEQUATE U.A.B.  
ALLOWANCES

For many months the teachers of Lancashire have been reporting cases of ill-shod children to the authorities, and the county authority has been working strenuously to secure help for these children from the Public Assistance and Unemployment Assistance Board, hitherto with little result.

While it is true that free dinners and milk are available at school for the sufferers, they are often unable to attend owing to severe weather or chronic ill-health; neither can they obtain medical treatment at the school clinics.

The Unemployment Assistance Board apparently maintains that the allowances given are sufficient to provide footwear, but the fact remains that the children are not adequately shod. Hundreds are running about the streets in thin canvas shoes which give no protection against rain, cold, frost, and snow.

There is reason to believe that the present system of public assistance is proving disastrous to the health and well-being of the poorest children, particularly as charitable agencies tend to disperse under it. Is it not time that this reflection upon English humanity was removed by Parliament?

The above statements are contained in a letter from Mr. Herbert Leather, Hon. Pres. Secretary of the Lancashire County Teachers' Association, published in the "Manchester Guardian" on January 12th.

The Labour Party has repeatedly protested against the present Unemployment Assistance Board Regulations and demanded that they should be drastically improved.

School Children's Holiday Association. The work for the children is so valuable that this association deserves all the support it can obtain. And if there is no money to spare, well—there are always books, toys, fresh fruit, and gramophone records, which will be much appreciated.

M. D. S.

## "WE CAN HAVE STRENGTH AND PEACE"

LABOUR PARTY

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

# JOINT CAMPAIGN

CITY HALL, SUNDAY, MARCH 5th

7 o'clock. Doors open 6-30 p.m.

Chairman - - C. S. DARVILL

**RT. HON. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.**

(CO-OPERATIVE PARTY)

**GEORGE DALLAS**

(CHAIRMAN, BRITISH LABOUR PARTY)

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