



## Square Deal for Consumers

*A Measure That Would Prevent Profiteering*

"The whole attitude of the Government is against giving a square deal to consumers," declared Mr. A. V. Alexander in the House of Commons on February 10th. He was supporting the second reading of the Consumers' Council Bill, a Labour proposal to prevent profiteering in food and other commodities.

Rev. G. S. Woods (Co-operative Member for Fintbury), moving the second reading, explained that the proposed Council would consist of seven members, including two women, appointed by the Board of Trade. Its function would be to investigate conditions of production and distribution in cases where prices were regarded as unnecessarily high, and to report to the Board of Trade. "The Board would then make orders which would be laid before Parliament."

Putting the case for the Bill, Mr. Woods pointed out that the Food Council set up in 1925 had no statutory basis and no effective power for obtaining information. The Consumers' Council would be given such power. High prices seriously affected the majority of the people, more especially the unemployed and old-age pensioners.

Mr. F. Marshall, seconding the Bill, said measures passed by the Government to deal with agricultural problems were designed to provide reasonable prices for producers. Labour had no objection to that, but the corollary was that the consumers should be protected against excessive prices.

The Bill was opposed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, who declared that it would antagonise traders, and that the fixing of prices was impracticable.

### Hiding the Truth About High Prices.

Replying to these and other objections, Mr. A. V. Alexander said the real point of those who opposed the Bill was that they were anxious that powers should not be given to the authorities to discover the facts about prices. Speaking from his own experience, he declared that in regard to the main commodities there was no reliable

information given to the public beyond that submitted by the co-operative movement.

Mr. Alexander instanced the case of the Whitbread Committee of Inquiry into Milk Prices in 1925. At that inquiry he gave details concerning the distribution of milk in North London and proved that, with the highest measure of scientific treatment and the payment of Trade Union rates of wages, the co-operative movement was able to turn a profit of 7d. a gallon. Evidence was given on behalf of a big private company in London shored a profit of only a halfpenny a gallon on a much larger turnover.

"In that case," he said, "it was quite impossible to get at the real facts without compulsory power to take evidence on oath and have the books examined by independent people."

Another instance cited by Mr. Alexander referred to coal. Whereas the co-operative movement, after paying Trade Union rates and making every possible allowance for costs, showed profits of from 2s. 5d. to 4s. a ton, evidence submitted to an Inquiry Committee by the Coal Merchants' Federation showed either small losses or hardly any profit.

There was no hesitation in inquiring into people's circumstances when these people were the unemployed—coming under the Means Test, said Mr. Alexander. "But when it was a question of knowing what profit was being extorted from the community, it was a case of 'hush-hush.'"

The second reading of the Bill was defeated by 57 votes.

The "Co-operative News" commenting on the debate said:—"How furiously the Tories rage when anything threatens the sacred rights of profit! Every argument they could think of, some ingenious, some well reasoned, most of them just stupid, were flung at the House of Commons recently in a successful attempt to defeat the Consumers' Council Bill, brought forward by the Rev. G. S. Woods.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## Government Presents Bill for Disastrous Foreign Policy

In April, 1927, the Defence Loans Act gave power to borrow £400,000,000 for purposes of defence over a period of five years. This amount is now being increased to £500,000,000. It is estimated that in the coming year £580,000,000 will be spent on all forms of defence, £370,000,000 from revenue and £210,000,000 from loans.

### Tax the Profiteers.

In the course of the debate in the House of Commons on February 10th and 21st the Labour Party attacked the disastrous foreign policy of the Govern-

ment since 1921 which led to the necessity for this colossal expenditure. As Mr. Dalton said: "These horrors in recent history result logically from the follies, misjudgments, and cowardice" of the Government. He also said that while it was quite right that the whole burden of the £580,000,000 expenditure of this year should not be put upon annual taxation, there was a strong case for meeting a substantial part of the arms bill by the taxation of arms profiteers; by a special taxation on very large incomes whose owners have been evading their proper contribution to revenue by legal subtleties; and by increasing the Death Duties.

### Government Failure.

Mr. Attlee said that the necessity for the piling up of huge armaments was the measure of the failure of the Government, not of its success. He condemned them for their weak and vacillating foreign policy; for their failure since 1926 to provide air raid shelters or adequate anti-aircraft guns; for their obstinate refusal year after year to provide a Ministry of Supply, the lack of which has been the cause of so much wastefulness and danger; for their failure despite this enormous expenditure to deal with the problem of the 2,000,000 of our people whose power and usefulness is being wasted and decaying through neglect.

Mr. A. V. Alexander reproached the Prime Minister for his saug complacency in the face of the lack of any assurance that we had even begun to narrow the gap, in the air for example, between our own and German output and production, on the result of Munich and the so-called policy of appeasement. "If," said Mr. Alexander, "the Government had been prepared to follow the advice given by Labour on September 27th, and had organised the nations who were prepared to stand behind the Covenant, either would not have marched, and you would have saved the peace and Czechoslovakia."

"WE CAN HAVE STRENGTH AND PEACE"

Co-operative and Labour Parties' Joint Campaign

## PROFITEERING

in the ATTERCLIFFE VESTRY HALL,  
Attercliffe Common, at 7-30 p.m. on  
FRIDAY, MARCH 10th



Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P.



Mr. John Hynd.

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

Mr. JOHN HYND (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Attercliffe)

"CHAMBERLAIN MUST GO"

Chairman: Mrs. A. IVES  
ADMISSION FREE  
EVERYBODY INVITED

**LEAD TO FOLLOW**

Only the foolish would question the high place which universities occupy in the cultural life of the nation. Acceptance of this statement does not, of course, necessarily carry with it the belief that, from an educational point of view, everything is as it should be at these centres of learning. It would not be difficult, we should imagine, for the co-operative movement, for instance, to suggest ways and means whereby the contact which the universities have with the everyday working life of the common people could be put on a wider and more democratic basis.

University tutors are now taking a greater interest in the co-operative movement, as is evidenced by the active association of several of them with the preparation of "Consumers' Co-operation in Great Britain."

University authorities might well follow the example of these tutors and recognize the value of the co-operative movement as an important factor in the economic welfare of the nation. They could do this by one or more of their founding Chairs of Co-operation.

If they are inclined to look doubtfully on the suggestion they can take heart by what the Laval University of Quebec has done. This university, because of a desire "to adapt its lessons to the needs of the day," has decided to give special attention to co-operation. With this object in view the university has founded a Chair of Co-operation.

At the City Council

**A BALANCED BUDGET**

**RATES DOWN! HOUSES UP!**

BY COUNCILLOR P. DINSLEY

At the March 22 Council Meeting everyone was on tip-toe waiting for the local "Chancellor" to present his budget for the year 1929-30.

A balanced budget—what a surprise. The Co-operative and Labour Parties had at last cleared up the mess left by their predecessors.

Alderman T. H. Watkins had still a further surprise—scarcely of the rates, again. The Tory Progressives sat up in amazement, for this reduction will benefit the whole community. Those living in a house assessed at £15 will save 6s. 6d. per year. Business concerns will benefit to a large extent.

This wonderful financial achievement has been accomplished without any reduction in the social services and whilst pushing forward an extensive housing programme.

The debt of the city on March 22nd, 1928, amounted to the sum of £27,332,294, but the assets of the Corporation are considerably in excess of the liabilities.

**Transport.**

Out of these this department has raised £2,578,000, but it has repaid £1,981,000, leaving a net debt outstanding of only £597,000. It should also be remembered that there are two streets belonging to this department which are worth considerably more than the outstanding debt.

Councillor H. Cunningham, in attempting to reply for the "Progressives," made rambling statements. He did, however, remark that the Socialists had succeeded in removing the deficit—this being a great compliment!

**A. R. P.**

Councillor W. Asbury stated that net expenditure on A.R.P. for the next financial year was expected to be £38,574, adding that he would not be at all surprised if that estimate was not doubled. He appealed to the Council to let A.R.P. become definitely a non-Party issue; all should be agreed that it is a national responsibility.

**Housing.**

During the forthcoming year we propose to erect 3,212 houses, of these 200 being for the purpose of relieving the over-crowding areas, 500 for the aged people, as well as carrying on with the slum clearance schemes.

Slum clearance was hotly debated, and described as "wanton," which of course reveals the vested interests' view as represented by the Tory "Progressive" Party. In a pleading speech,

Councillor Kirk made a lot of prattle about injury inflicted upon many people who had to depend upon slums as a means of livelihood. What an admission! Now the Tory "Progressives" talk about slum houses being reconstructed.

A Community Centre will be built soon on the Langley Estate costing £20,000.

**Town Planning.**

We are doing our best with regard to Town Planning, but considerable trouble is caused because of site values. The modern counterpart of Shakespeare's immortal Shylock, the landowner, naming his pound of flesh, Councillor Biingham twisted the Tory "Progressives" on how the land was first acquired by the Enclosures Act between 1760 and 1830.

The March Council meeting was altogether a great success for the



COUNCILLOR P. DINSLEY

Co-operative and Labour Party. Sheffield is still leading in municipal affairs reductions in the rates, and a balanced budget, not a penny being drawn from any of the trading departments. All the surplus thereby obtained goes back to the consumer in the form of cheap electricity, cheap transport, and better facilities.

**"Sam Small's" Latest Adventures are in a Co-operative Store**



Scene from "Co-operative," the new C.W.S. all-colour publicity film, showing Hal Walters in the role of Stanley Holloway's famous character "Sam Small." The film is being shown this month in a series of local programme meetings arranged by the Brightside and Carbrook Society's education department.

**YOU WILL LIKE "MYLYTA UNDERWEAR"**

Produced in a variety of charming styles, at moderate prices

Manufactured by the Makers of the

**"ASHFIELD" BRAND Hosiery and Underwear**

The Kirkby-in-Ashfield Co-operative Manufacturers - Limited, Eyre Street, East Kirkby, Notts.

**Proved by Merit** to be worthy of the name

**"THE IDEAL"**

Ladies' Tailor-made Costumes  
Gentlemen's High-class Bespoke Tailoring  
Boys' Suits  
Hats and Caps

CAN BE OBTAINED AT YOUR STORES.

The Ideal Clothiers Limited Works - - - Wellington

**SELF-HELP SHOES**

Made by Co-operators for Co-operators

ASK FOR THEM AT YOUR STORES

Made by Lancaster Self-Help Co-operative Shoe Manufacturers Ltd., Darrold Road, Lancaster

The Co-operative Party and Brightside and Carbrook Education Committee present a programme of

**TALKIE FILMS**

including **"ADVANCE DEMOCRACY"**  
**"SPANISH ABC"** **"POSTMAN'S KNOCK"**  
with supporting educational and comedy films, to commence each evening at 7.30 p.m.

**MARCH**

- MONDAY - - 6th MALIN BRIDGE COUNCIL SCHOOL (Infants' Dept.), Dykes Lane.
- TUESDAY - - 7th ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH SCHOOLROOM, Primrose Hill.
- WEDNESDAY - 8th CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTE, Wisewood Road.
- THURSDAY - 9th SHIRECLIFFE COUNCIL SCHOOL (Senior Dept.), Penrith Road.
- FRIDAY - - 10th WYCLIFFE HALL, Channing Street, Langsett Road.
- MONDAY - - 13th WALKLEY PAROCHIAL HALL, South Road.
- TUESDAY - - 14th PYEBANK METHODIST SCHOOLROOM, Haywood Road.
- WEDNESDAY - 15th CO-OPERATIVE INSTITUTE, Napier Street.
- THURSDAY - 16th WISEWOOD COUNCIL SCHOOL (Junior Dept.), Wisewood Road.
- FRIDAY - - 17th RUTLAND HALL, Rutland Road, Neepsend.
- SATURDAY - 18th HILLSBOROUGH COUNCIL SCHOOL (Boys' Dept.), Parkside Road.
- MONDAY - - 20th CO-OPERATIVE GUILDROOM, Gleadless Road.

EVERYBODY INVITED.

**Rt. Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P.**  
(who features in the main film), will be present and give a short address.

ADMISSION FREE.



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

**MAKE THAT FIRST LIE  
THE LAST**

Last week, when walking down High-street, I met a friend who is usually very cheerful. On this occasion, however, she was looking dejected, thought that perhaps her small son, Peter was ill. But Peter wasn't ill—his mother was worried because he had told a lie. Like all mothers she had taught her child to be truthful and it was a shock to her to find that he wasn't. This, of course, is a case which has come to my personal notice, but the fact remains, most parents have to deal at some time with an untruthful child.

Usually it is the mother who finds out that her child has told a lie. Possibly it is one of the most painful of experiences. No mother likes to realise that her child is guilty of telling a falsehood. It is often over a trivial matter and a mother's first instinct is to ask herself if she has heard aright. She knows that the child has lied but she is naturally anxious to disbelieve the fact.

The lie in itself may be considered unimportant—but the purpose behind it is important. For the lie will have served a very real purpose in the child's life, and the thing to do is to find out why the child found it necessary to make an untrue statement.

Truthfulness, like many other virtues, is acquired not inherited.

And it is only by training that a child can learn that "honesty is the best policy." Sometimes we adults are often so truthful as we might be. How often do we find it convenient to tell a "white lie." For instance, we may not wish to attend some social function, and we think there is nothing wrong in pleading a headache to en-

able us to furnish an adequate excuse for staying away.

Similarly, a child may find it necessary to tell a lie to avoid doing a task which is disliked. Like a grown-up, the child will find an excuse even if it is an untruthful one. Absolute truth can be very hard to practise at all times, and parents should not be hypocritically shocked when they are imitated by their children.

Generally, it will be found that the exaggerations, lies and fantasies told by children are all direct efforts to evade responsibility, avoid punishment or to escape reality. A group of youngsters are playing a game, a stone is thrown and a window broken. In an effort to find who is responsible, a child is asked, "Did you do it or did Tommy?" All children are taught that "splitting" is a cardinal sin and yet such a question forms a situation when a lie may have to be told or a "split" made on the other fellow. If ingenuity is used in the effort to get a truthful answer, there is no likelihood of "catching out" a child in a lie.

Children are very apt to lie in order to cover up their misconduct. This is especially so when punishment tends to be severe. A timid and sensitive child is more likely to resort to falsehood to avert reprimand than is a more courageous youngster. There is a vital difference in children in that the inward power to face responsibility is more latent in some than in others. Some children learn early that they must stand on their own feet and face the consequences of their own acts. Others go through long and painful

**Y-H-A**

Do you like the country but feel you can't afford to do the country square stuff, or do you think that walking or cycling through the countryside is dull and that you like lots of bright company?

Try joining the Youth Hostels Association—you'll overcome both these obstacles to the greatest pastime in the world. There is plenty of gay and lively company in the hostels, or if you are of a quiet turn of mind you will find others like yourself. No one will

experiences before they acquire wisdom. And, therefore, it is wise to temper punishment with due regard to the temperament and personality of the child. Never be so rigid or severe that lying is practically forced on the offender as a method of escape.

A child's mind teems with unanswered questions, unfulfilled desires and an unending curiosity. No parent can hope to adequately fathom the needs and desires of a child's inner life. The mind of a child is a "place where strange things dwell." I remember a child saying to me, "There is a huge, black lion at the bottom of the garden." When I pointed out to her that it wasn't a lion at all but merely a large black cat, she answered, "Well, it looked like a lion to me." Probably it did. Dark was falling and shadows lay on the lawn. The child had been reading a book on animals and her mind was full of jungle lore. Her imagination did the rest.

There are occasions when a child has been disappointed or humiliated or has failed to do something for which success was urgently desired. Then the child will call on his imagination and weave a fantastic tale whereby an escape into a world of fantasy is assured, thus achieving for the time being a sense of importance.

And so it goes on—not only with children but with adults as well. A deceitful child will never make an honest, upright citizen. M. D. S.

**An Invitation to the Youth of Sheffield**

care whether you have a good job and salary or whether you have none, as long as you are friendly and "take the rough with the smooth." You will always find someone to help you if you need it and you'll be expected to do likewise.

There are no restrictions of nationality, political creed or religion if you like the open-air life or want to learn to like it, the Y.H.A. will help you.

As for cost, membership of the Y.H.A. is only 2s. 6d. per year if you're under 25; 5s. if over. For that sum you have the use of hundreds of hostels in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and if you want to go abroad for holidays there are hostels in almost all countries.

The overnight charge is 1s., for which you have a bed, pillow and blankets and cooking facilities. In most hostels you can buy a meal from the warden if required.

Besides all this, of course, you get companionship and residence in lovely old halls and castles or in small, friendly cottages; one may be on a hillside overlooking a famous valley, one on the edge of a wind-swept moor; perhaps in the valley with a river singing past the gate or in a city you have always wanted to see, London, for instance, or Edinburgh.

In Sheffield we also have various activities such as dances, socials in the winter and short evening rambles in summer.

The Y.H.A. is a democratic organisation if there ever was one—it is run by members for members and we should like you to share the good things.

You can join at the Scout Shop in Telephone Buildings, West Street. The handbooks, which are obtainable there for sixpence (one for each country), will give you further details, including all necessary information about hostels. Why not give us a trial—you won't regret it! Kathleen C. Bostell (Press Secretary).

**SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE PARTY**

17, Bank Street. Secretary: Mr. A. BALLARD. Phone: 23982.

**TENTH ANNUAL TRIP**

**NORTH DEVON**

MINEHEAD LYNMOUTH ILFRACOMBE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 24th, 1939

**Programme:**

Train departs Sheffield L.M.S. 11.10 p.m. (Friday), calling at Healey, BREAKFAST ON TRAIN. Arrive Taunton 5.45 a.m. MOTOR COACH TOUR via Bishops, Lydeard, Williton, Dunster, MINEHEAD (short stay), coastal road Porlock and Cantsbury to LYNNMOUTH (1½ hours stay), thence via Barnstaple, Dean, Churchdown, Blackmoor Gate, Broadwick, Kentsbury Ford, Shirwell Cross, Waytown, and Pilton to BARNSTAPLE for LUNCH. Motor-coach via Braunton, Knowle, and Twicken to ILFRACOMBE.

AFTERNOON CRUISE OFF THE NORTH DEVON COAST. EVENING FREE IN ILFRACOMBE.

Train leaving 10 p.m. SUPPER ON TRAIN. Arrive Sheffield 6.55 a.m. Sunday.

**COST FOR THE WHOLE EXCURSION, INCLUDING THREE MEALS AS ABOVE 38/6**

Booking fees of 7s. 6d. must be paid not later than Saturday, April 29th, final payment to be made not later than Saturday, June 10th.

**APPLICATION FORM.**

EXCURSION TO NORTH DEVON, SATURDAY, JUNE 24th, 1939.

To Mr. A. Ballard (Secretary, Sheffield Co-operative Party), 17, Bank Street, Sheffield, 1.

Kindly book ..... seat(s) for which I enclose booking fees of ..... \* and membership fee (6d. per person).

Name .....

Address .....

\* for non-members.

**The Only Firm**

to set itself the aim of service—not profit—is the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., familiarly known as the C.W.S. Because it has no profit-seeking motives and functions solely in the interests of the consumer, the C.W.S. can put full value in the packet. Prove this when next you shop at the Co-operative Stores by insisting on the productions of

**the C.W.S.**







# SHOPPING SIMPLIFIED!

## the CONVENIENCE of

# buying the "S & E"

# TRADING CLUB WAY

**IN APPROVED CASES  
MORE THAN ONE  
SHARE MAY BE TAKEN  
REPAYMENTS ARE AS  
FOLLOWS:**

For a	Share	Members pay	per week
24/-	"	1/-	"
48/-	"	"	2/-
72/-	"	"	3/-
96/-	"	"	4/-
120/-	"	"	5/-

★ The solving of your budget is best accomplished through our Trading Club.

By this means you can obtain 24/- worth of goods for 5/- (five weekly payments of one shilling) and the balance of 19/- in 19 subsequent weekly instalments.

After the fifth weekly instalment has been paid, Coupons to the full value of the shares taken up are issued for exchange in the following departments :-

DRAPERY, FOOTWEAR, CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES (Crockery and Hardware), DECORATING, RADIO.

**THE CLUB IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ONLY**

There are no Entrance Fees and no Poundage is charged. You receive full Dividend—1/10 in the £.

Application Forms now obtainable at all Stores and the Registered Office.

**WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN**

First Contribution is due  
**MONDAY, MARCH 6th.**

★ **FASHION NOTE  
FOR MARCH**

*Mannequins will parade in "The Arcade"  
Restaurant Reception Hall adjoining, on*

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,  
AND FRIDAY,  
MARCH 21, 22, AND 24**

DAILY at 3 p.m.

\*SPECIAL EVENING SESSION AT 6-30



REGISTERED OFFICE "THE ARCADE" ECCLESALL ROAD

# The Price of 'Peace'

## What Czechoslovakia Paid

**A Broken and a Subject State.**

When the Czechoslovakia (Financial Assistance) Bill was before the House of Commons on February 17th, Mr. Wedgwood Benn gave some significant facts about the price paid by Czechoslovakia for the Munich "peace." He began by quoting "The Times" tribute, before the dismemberment of the country, that "nowhere on the Continent do minorities enjoy greater freedom than in Czechoslovakia"; and the statement by the Archbishop of Canterbury that Czechoslovakia was a free Democracy based on Christian ideals.

"Now," said Mr. Benn, "you have a broken and a subject State, writhing under foreign control, bound to come to us for what help we can give. Why do we have to vote money for Czechoslovakia to-day? It is because she has lost her assets." Detailing some of these losses, Mr. Benn said that the country's main railway line was broken at fourteen points, so that it was not possible to go between the two chief towns, Prague and Brno, without crossing German territory. Every train passing through German territory had to pay a tax of five hundred crowns.

Under the Munich Agreement, Czechoslovakia lost 800 locomotives, 5,279 passenger coaches and 23,000 goods wagons. Her lignite and brown coal were almost completely lost, and two-thirds of the hard coal was lost. In addition there were lost towns and buildings on which millions of pounds had been spent.

Dealing with the £1,000,000 gift for the expatriation of people who have to leave the country, Mr. Benn said that the cheapest way for them to come, say, from Prague to London, was by a third-class train fare of £5 21s. But Hitler would not let them come that way, and twice that sum had to be paid to convey them by other routes.

Concluding, Mr. Benn said some people might think that the Germans went to Munich to carry out the principle of self-determination. "If they wish to liberate minorities," he added, "there are plenty in Poland and Italy. They went to Munich in pursuit of great strategic objectives in the East. There is more than a danger that we are contributing our mite to establishing what exists almost completely to-day—a political, economic and military domination of the East by Germany."

# Co-operative Party Notes

### ATTERCLIFFE.

A meeting of the Attercliffe Ward was held on February 23rd of which the officials for 1939 were appointed. Mr. E. Mullanagh being re-elected secretary. A meeting of the Darnall members will be held on Monday, March 6th, in the Garth Road Institute, and the Tinsley Ward will meet in the Guild Room, Hanbury Road on Wednesday, March 8th, to elect officials.

The Brightside Divisional Council held a successful meeting in the Shiregreen Co-operative Institute on February 25th, when Mr. J. White opened a discussion on the resolutions to be submitted to the annual National Conference at Easter. The meeting was followed by a social.

### BURNGREAVE

The Burngreave Women's Section held well-attended meetings in spite of the bad weather. During February speakers included Mrs. James, who dealt with the "Woodcroft Folk," Mrs. S. E. Keane, and Mr. Ben Graves, who gave a monthly social proof another success.

Programme for March: Mrs. S. A. Wilson (B and C education committee); 8th, Mrs. J. C. Cunnington (Sheffield Women's Welfare Clinic); 15th, a social; 22nd, Mrs. P. M. Sweeting is the speaker; and on the 29th Mrs. A. Fletcher.

Refreshments are held in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. E. Velland, the secretary, extends a hearty invitation to all housewives resident in the district.

### HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Party have continued their meetings on Thursday evenings in the Guild Room during February. On the 2nd Councillee P. Dinsley gave an interesting report of City Council work, which was followed by a keen discussion; 9th, a dance was arranged for the benefit of the Spanish Relief Fund, when over £5 was raised; 16th, Councillor W. G. Robinson's report of the international party was listened to by a keenly interested audience, discussion which followed showed what an important part international policy will play in the near General Election. On the 23rd the agenda for the Party's National Conference was discussed.

The programme for March: 2nd, City Council report by Councillee E. Slack; 9th, open date; 16th, carnival dance (in the Institute), admission 1s.; 23rd, Mr. Berry will be the speaker; and 30th, Mr. G. Clarke.

The Women's Section, which meets weekly in the large Institute, on Monday afternoons, enjoyed a pantomime on February 6th provided by the social committee; 13th, Mrs. J. Bilam spoke on "Charles Kingsley's Life and Work"; 20th, Mr. W. G. Bramley (director, Sheffield and Ecclesall Society) gave an interesting address on "Dividends"; and on the 27th Mrs. Arnold Freeman took for her subject "World Affairs."

Programme for March: 6th, social; 13th, Mrs. Ledbrook will be the speaker; and 20th, Mrs. Cunnington (Sheffield Women's Welfare Clinic); and on the 29th Councillor H. Slack.

### WADSLY AND WISEWOOD.

The Wadslay and Wisewood section held their annual meeting on February 21st, when thanks were accorded the retiring officers and committees. The officials appointed for 1939 are: Mr. G. Morrison (president), Mr. T. Trett (vice-president), Mr. A. Payling, 21, Dykes Hall-road (secretary and treasurer). A grant of 24s. was made to the Wadslay and Wisewood Special Aid Committee.

February 28th, Councillor P. Dinsley gave an address on the work and functions of the British Co-operative Union; 15th, Mr. W. G. Bramley spoke on "Dividends," a subject which created a good discussion; 22nd, Mrs. M. H. Gethin took "Unemployment," as her subject, using comparative figures to demonstrate that unemployment was on the increase despite the armaments boom. She also gave typical examples proving the barableness of the Means Test.

Programme for March: 1st, a whist drive, admission 6d.; 8th, a talkie-film

programme; 15th, City Council report; 22nd, Councillor P. Dinsley will speak on Sheffield's Abattoir; 29th Mr. A. Ballard, the Party organiser, will be the speaker. A cordial invitation to these meetings is given to residents in the Wadslay, Wisewood, Woodland View, and Main Ridge districts.

### NEPSSEND.

The Neepsend Party held a meeting on February 10th for the election of officers. Mr. J. Allen was re-elected secretary; Mr. Wm. Ems, elected president; and Mrs. H. Acer 14, Fowler-street, appointed secretary.

The Women's Section which meets on Monday Manners-street, announce Guild Room, Manners-street, announce for March: 1st, Councillor Stokes to give the City Council report; 13, a social; 20th, Mrs. H. Acer will give a talk; and on the 27th, will repeat from various delegates.

### SOUTHEY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood section, which at present meets the Louley, Norwood, Southey, Shirecliffe, and Parson Cross estates, report an enthusiastic beginning for 1939. The annual meeting was well attended, when the secretary, Mr. G. A. Holder, reviewed the work of 1938, which proved very satisfactory.

A large and interested audience was held on February 2nd by Comrade Sterling, ex-member of the Spanish International Brigade; whose description of the atrocities perpetrated by the Fascist-controlled armies in Spain aroused the indignation of those present. He made a powerful plea for the Republican Government to be given the right to buy arms to defend themselves against Fascist rebellion. On the 16th, Councillor J. H. Bingham, J.P., gave an interesting address on international affairs proving how the march of Fascism had been assisted by poverty. The abolition of poverty was the primary aim and possible achievement by Democracy once it was rightly organised.

February 23rd, Mr. A. Ballard, the Party organiser, attended the social function arranged for distributors of the "Sheffield Co-operator," giving a short address on the necessity of challenging the syndicalised, capitalist Press through this medium. He thanked those who were carrying out this splendid voluntary work for the cause of co-operation and Labour. The "Elite" Entertainers provided an excellent programme.

The March programme of the Women's Section, which meets on Wednesday afternoons, is: 1st, Mrs. Cunningham (Welfare Clinic); 8th, Spelling Bee and American Text; 15th, visit to the C.W.S. shirt factory; 22nd and 29th, speakers to be arranged.

The Southey and Neepsend Women's Section have joined in arranging a dinner, dance, and whist drive, to be held in the City Shires Restaurant on Wednesday, March 29th. Dinner to commence at 7 p.m. Cabaret by the Fayre Daviso School of Dancing. Admission tickets (2s. 6d.) may be had from the secretaries: Mrs. Allen, 165,

Everingham-road, and Mrs. Watson, 79, Southey Hill.

### SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

Monday, February 13th, an address was given by Mr. Henry Wilkinson on the subject of "A United Front for Peace." Mr. Wilkinson gave a very masterly analysis of the national and international situation and made a powerful plea for a united front of the democratic movement to defeat the forces moving for dictatorship and Fascism. A long and interesting discussion followed. On the 20th Mr. W. G. Bramley (a member of the S. and E. Board) opened the Debate Night on "Dividend." He dealt with the significance in a modern co-operative movement that to be met before the final 'divi' could be declared, and led up to the question "Was it desirable to have a high dividend or a low dividend reflected in lower prices?" Mr. Bramley was bombed with questions and a very keen discussion followed.

Programme of the Party's meetings in the Co-operative Institute, Napier-street, Mondays at 7.45 p.m.: 6th, March: 6th, Business Meeting; 13th, City Council report by Councillor W. Wise; 20th, Debate Night, discussion to be opened by Mr. C. W. Eaton; 27th, a Whist Drive, admission 6d. A talkie-film show is being arranged for Wednesday, March 15th, at 7.30 p.m. A special meeting will be held for members for a new branch of the Party at Gleadless and in this connection talkie-film show is to be held in the Gleadless-road Guild Room on Monday, March 20th, at 7.30 p.m. Admission free.

The S. and E. Women's Section which meets in Room 2, Napier-street, on Thursday afternoons, have had addresses during February, on the 16th, from Mrs. E. Moore, subject: "Sheffield Working-class History," outlining the constant fight the poor people had had against oppression, and stating just over 100 years ago the Sheffield workmen were sentenced to seven years transportation for taking union activities; 23rd, Mr. A. Ballard spoke on "Capitalism in the Crisis," mentioning in particular the promises of the "National" Government in 1931 to find work rather than doles; to support the League of Nations; to retain the Gold Standard; to balance the Budget; and to create confidence throughout the World. Instead, today there were 2,000,000 unemployed; the "National" Government had never given adequate support to the League of Nations; we went off the Gold Standard a few months after the Government was elected; the Budget had never been balanced since the Government had been in office; and so far from creating confidence we had hardly a friend in the world and were waiting the instructions of the dictators as to the next move we should make.

Programme for March: 2nd, Business Meeting; 9th, Annual Dinner; followed by a Whist Drive and Dance; 16th, Annual Conference Agenda to be discussed; 23rd, the Section will partake in the Guilds' Federation Ball; speaker, Mrs. Penny; 30th, Social.

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SHEPHERD WHEAT

# Chamberlain's New Attack

Mr. Chamberlain, having committed the country to paying £2,100,000,000 at the price of "appeasement," looks round for savings to stem the tide of bankruptcy. The wings of the arms profiteers are not to be clipped. The activities of noble dukes who convert themselves into private companies in order to evade income tax are not to be curbed. Upon the size of arms profits and the extent of tax evasion, no doubt, depends the response to the Conservative Central office appeal for national funds, with which the Prime Minister associated himself recently.

So Mr. Chamberlain turns to the unemployed. There are, he declares, and "filers" among them, who work—yes, repeating the libel which made the delinquent Tory "Morning Post" stink in the nostrils of decent people. And he proposes to exercise the power which the Unemployment Assistance Board have possessed since 1934, the power which they are now keen to wield,

to force unemployed men into work camps on pain of refusing them relief from the cruel conditions of poverty for which Government policy alone is responsible.

Mr. Chamberlain's threat goes even further.

An unemployed man may take the view that if he is given work to do, that labour should be rewarded at Trade Union rates. He may feel that, otherwise, he is being forced to accept the terms of wage-cutting. That is a proper view, shared by responsible opinion in all Parties.

An unemployed man may consider that his health and fitness for work would be better maintained by eating good food than by entering, under underground concentration camp to be non-military (I) manoeuvres. That opinion is backed heavily by expert medical opinion.

But neither view will save the unemployed from incarceration if Mr. Chamberlain gets his way.

The very fact of being unemployed—the very fact of the Government's failure to provide work—is sufficient, subject to the usual set of safeguards designed to protect nothing but the super-taxpayer's pocket, to condemn a man to virtual imprisonment in a Government work camp.

If it is not conviction of the unemployed, what is it? We share the Prime Minister's sympathy with Lancashire men and women who work long hours for wages so meagre that they would be better off on public relief. We do not, however, regard that shocking state of affairs as an excuse for forcing upon the condition of the unemployed. It is a condemnation of the cotton masters, whose industrialistic greed and inefficiency have reduced a great industry to ruin.

Mr. Chamberlain has destroyed the hope of peace and freedom in Europe. He threatens now to attack social services and freedom in Great Britain. All those who have a care for progress must unite to destroy him and his financial interests of which he is the willing mouthpiece and puppet.

# BRIGHTSIDE AND CARBROOK Bigger than Ever

## BOYCOTT NAZI GOODS

### CO-OPERATIVE GUILD MEMBERS' EFFORTS

The Brightside and Carbrook Society reports sales amounting to £1,082,387 for the twenty-seven weeks ending January 30th. The increase over the previous half-year is £69,998, and the average increase for the year is £948 6/8 per cent. The sales for the year 1938-9 are £1,152,469, an increase of £75,280, or 7.4 per cent., when compared with the £1,077,189 of the previous year.

The disposable surplus amounts to £93,646. After making grants to the club and political funds, the directors recommend dividend and bonus at the rate of 15.9d. in the pound.

The share capital standing to the members' credit is the highest on record for the society, and totals £910,171. Increases in the penny bank and the 5/6d. club are also recorded.

The optical department, since the first view—shows a turnover during the half-year of £1,713 12s. An extension of the department will become necessary in the near future if this rate of progress continues.

The new branch premises in Lindyavenue, comprising grocers, provision, fruit, and delicatessen departments, opened recently by Miss E. Wilkinson, a member of the board, admirably serves this rapidly-growing area. The board have other sites in view for further developments.

A new loading bay at the City Stores, with exit into Castlegate, will release a site of the Wraggate site for furniture display. There is also a special furniture exhibition on the top floor to which the general public are cordially invited.

A further increase of membership is recorded, the present figure standing at 77,620 is the largest in the history of the society.

The election for six directors and two members of the education committee will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 10th and 11th.

There is a move amongst the Co-operative Guild members to boycott goods originating from Germany. A letter addressed to the guild's states that the best way to break Hitler's prestige is to boycott goods coming from Germany, and thus encourage the workers in Germany who are struggling bravely and with great sacrifice against a Nazi Government. Those people would learn of the boycott and gain renewed hope.

The following are the most important items: Fancy leather goods, rubber articles, glass, earthenware, porcelain, toys, clocks, watches, cameras and films, musical instruments, cutlery, tools.

All goods produced abroad must be marked "Foreign," but there is no necessity for indicating the country of origin. Nevertheless, the non-Fascist countries, such as the United States, are urged to facilitate stamp their goods with the name of the country. Thus, if stamped "Made in the U.S.A.," it is a strong ground for suspecting Fascist origin. The lesson is, if in doubt, do not buy, but make the reason clear to the shop assistant. This should encourage the practice of marking goods with the country of origin.

## END THE LAND RAMP

The London County Council Bill for the Rating of Site Values came before the House of Commons in February. It is a modest Bill, providing for the levying of a rate of 2s. in the pound on the value of the administrative county area. It seeks to open a badly needed new source of municipal revenue, and to move a considerable portion of London's rating burden off houses on to site values.

Behind the measure is the support of over 220 local authorities, many controlled by Conservatives. These authorities represent the community. Against the Bill is a small clique whose interests of the past have long reached the dimensions of public scandal. Even so, we wish there was the slightest indication from the Government that it is a matter it believes the interests of the people would be best served by subordinating those of the community.

The facts in favour of a site values tax are overwhelming. Housing and social development have been held up all over the country, or carried out at prohibitive cost.

It is to be hoped that will rage over London's Bill will be a national battle. The principle involved is people or profits. In such a struggle the co-operative movement has long held up a neutral and its sympathies are behind the Bill.

## "HELP FOR SPAIN" FUND

WADSLLEY AND WISEWOOD EFFORT

In a recent canvass of the area the following were collected towards the Yorkshire foodshop for Spain:—

- Cash: 100s. 10s. 10d.
- donations £1 6s. 6d., 10s. of milk, 31s 5d. fish, 30s 10c. beef, 22s 10c. tin fruit, 2s. beans, 7s 10c. beef, 5s 10c. spaghetti, 12s 10c. soup, 4s 10c. bread, 7s 10c. of sugar, 5s 10c. tea, 10s 10c. flour, 7s 10c. lbs. rice, 2s 10c. soap, 10s 10c. tins peas, 2s 10c. miscellaneous packages.

Various supplies of clothing and boots. Mrs. M. H. Gethin, the secretary, asks us to express the thanks of the committee for the very generous response to their appeal.

## SUNDAY EVENING MEETINGS AT MANOR

Residents in the Manor and Intake districts are given a cordial invitation to meetings held in the Co-operative Guildroom (over Brimley shop), Ridge-way-road, every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock.

March 13th—Councillor J. H. Bingham, J.P.  
 14th—Councillor H. Hill, J.P.  
 26th—C. S. Cole.

## Over 2,000,000

THE latest figures show that on January 16th there were 2,070,000 registered unemployed in Britain. This was an increase of 207,654 as compared with the total on December 13th, and 212,429 more than a year ago. These tragic figures are an overwhelming indictment of the Government's shameful neglect of this grave problem. They cannot be explained away by "bad weather" or any other excuse. The stark fact is that the total of workless is the highest since January, 1936, at a time when there is a huge rearmament programme and the nation is being called upon to mobilise all its resources for national defence.

The total of those in employment is 184,000 less than last month and 50,000 less than a year ago. Even more serious are the heavy increases in unemployment in industries which ought to be

benefiting from rearmament work. As compared with a year ago, engineering shows an increase of 27,840; iron and steel, 17,000; metal goods manufacture, 12,256; coal mining, 12,737. As compared with last month, engineering showed an increase of 6,000; metal goods manufacture an increase of 9,590. The increase in unemployment last month affected the whole country. Even the so-called "prosperous" South did not escape. London showed an increase of over 34,000, and the South-Eastern and South-Western Division showed a combined total increase of 38,649. In the Midlands there was an increase of 31,571.

## GOVERNMENT APATHETIC.

What is the Government going to do about these appalling figures? If the recent replies of responsible Ministers to questions put by Labour M.P.s are any indication, the Government will continue to sit back and hope that the problem may solve itself. The Prime Minister has confessed that he does not believe that we can ever cure unemployment. It is that defeatist attitude which has meant the unemployment figures mounting up month by month.

The Labour Party declares that the nation cannot at this critical hour afford the shameful and preventable waste of productive power of over two million of its citizens. Apart from rearmament, there is abundant work that is urgently needed. The country is seriously perturbed about the inadequacy of air-raid precautions, and vast numbers of the unemployed could be and ought to be absorbed in this work of vital national importance.

But it is clear that the unemployment problem will not be solved until full use is made of the nation's resources, and for that there must be a national plan based on Socialist principles. "Labour's Unimmediate Programme" for the national ownership and services production of the key industries and services provides such a plan.

The "National" Government's record on home affairs is as black as its record on foreign affairs. There can be no question of real peace nor true prosperity until that Government is displaced by a strong Labour Government.

## Protecting the Owner-Occupier

### MISS WILKINSON'S BILL

Miss ELLEN WILKINSON, Labour M.P. for Jarrow, who last year successfully got through the House of Commons the Hire Purchase Bill, presented a Bill on February 21st to amend the law relating to Building Societies.

The Bill seeks to protect purchasers of houses under £1,000 from suffering loss through inferior materials or workmanship in houses purchased through a Building Society. The most important part of the Bill enacts that the dwelling-house must be of good substance and that the contract copies with the local by-laws, and that at the date of the mortgage it is, in all respects, reasonable for full national allocation. If the purchaser finds that his house does not fulfil these conditions he has the right to apply to the local authority to have his house surveyed. The local authority after the survey will issue a certificate, and if there is anything wrong the purchaser can take the certificate to the Building Society, and demand to have the necessary repairs done. If the Building Society fail to do this work satisfactorily the purchaser can take the case to the county court and get a judgment suspending liability for payment until the repairs have been done.

The Bill also enacts that the purchaser shall know the amount of collateral security taken up by the Building Society, so that he will have some idea of the real value which the Building Society places on your house. This would legitimise the system of obtaining collateral security from a "huddlers' pool," and would be retrospective.

On the same day, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government had decided to bring in a Bill which would deal with this latter part of Miss Wilkinson's Bill.

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# THE 57th

## WE OPEN ANOTHER NEW BRANCH—THIS TIME AT PARSON CROSS

We still forge ahead. We have just opened our 57th branch. These new premises in Lindsay Avenue, Parson Cross, have been designed to meet the ever growing needs of a rapidly developing area. Modern in equipment, attractive in appearance, and staffed by efficient and courteous assistants, this branch establishment fills a long felt want with its well stocked grocery and provision department and its up-to-date butchery section. Our policy, too, of selling nothing but the best at the keenest price levels has already made this newly established branch popular with the housewife who keeps as close an eye on quality as she does on price. For quality is, and always has been, our keynote, as you know . . . Then there's the dividend, too.

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