



# The SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATOR



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## BY-ELECTION IN HALLAM Labour's Challenge To "National" Government C. S. DARVILL'S CLEAR-CUT POLICY

THE regrettable passing of Sir Louis Hipson Smith, M.P., will necessitate a by-election in the Hallam division. Mr. C. S. Darvill, who had been chosen as Sir Louis' opponent for the next General Election, will go forward as the Labour nominee.

There has been a good deal of hesitation on the part of the Hallam Division Conservative Association in securing another candidate. One thing that may have caused some delay is the fact that the stock of the "National" Government after the total failure of Mr. Chamberlain's "appeasement" policy has fallen so much as to shake the confidence of the Conservatives. They may very well be postponing the by-election as long as possible in the hope that the Chamberlain stock may rise again (a vain hope after the revolt in the Tory ranks against Mr. Chamberlain's muddle-headed control of affairs).

### Candidate Wanted for Discredited "National" Cause.

We were interested in a report of the annual meeting of the Association where Councillor John Drinnan, who presided, attempted to describe the type of candidate they would require. "First of all he must be a loyal supporter of the 'National' Government," said Mr. Drinnan. "This is a country of vast natural and financial resources and the people are crying out for the entire resources of the nation to be devoted to one purpose—like acceleration of all measures for the defence of democracy throughout the world." "We like the idea of the defence of

democracy throughout the world, but cannot conceive how a candidate supporting the "National" Government can accept such a policy. The series of betrayals of democracy since 1931 apparent in the domestic as well as the foreign policy of the "National" Government, is a tragic story of the selling of our country after another



Mr. C. S. DARVILL, Labour Candidate for Hallam.

due to the vacillations of a weak Government, and latterly to the palsied hand of Mr. Chamberlain at the steering wheel.

Whilst dictators act against democracy; ridicule democratic ideas; and

suppress every sentiment of democracy by brute force; and in country after country this Government not only hesitates, but cringes before the dictators, the confidence of small nations and gives the impression of utter helplessness in the face of threats not only to democracy, but to civilisation itself.

It is encouraging to find so clear a statement of the Hallam Conservatives. If they are to fight on what the "National" Government has done or is likely to do to save democracy, the Labour Party asks for nothing better as the main issue of the election campaign.

### Labour Accepts Challenge.

"We asked Mr. Darvill what he thought of the challenge that such an official statement represented. Mr. Darvill frankly charged the "National" Government with having brought us to the brink of war and surrendered almost everything which our countrymen paid a terrible price to preserve. The League of Nations has been reduced to impotence. The system of mutual and collective security amongst the nations has been shattered. Russia has been cold-shouldered by the Western Powers; and now the "peace of any price" secured by Mr. Chamberlain at Munich has proved to be a tremendous sacrifice with tragic results. British interests are menaced in the Mediterranean. British diplomacy has suffered a series of shattering defeats, and Great Britain has thrown away the respect and support of many nations and peoples.

Mr. Darvill continued: "For seventeen years out of the twenty since

the Great War the Governments have been predominantly Conservative. When Labour was in office, though in a minority, for nearly three years, were the only years in which serious attempts were made to remove the causes of war and strengthen the League of Nations. The Labour Party has consistently urged justice and conciliation as a British policy. Time after time it has been proved right after the event, but never has its advice been heeded. Upon the "National" Government," said Mr. Darvill, "is the principal responsibility for wrecking the World Disarmament Conference."

Whilst disparaging a policy of conciliation and collective security, it had shamefully—almost criminally, neglected the defence of the country. The crisis in September found us in a state of appalling unpreparedness—in the air, in our land forces, and on the sea. Moreover, no proper arrangement had been made for food supply until recently—a very important factor during war.

Our resources had been wasted by the Government which now attempts to claim our support. "At home the financial and industrial state of our country," said Mr. Darvill, "has been allowed to decline. We cannot afford two million unemployed, especially remembering that Tory policy tends to membership to Germany and Japan." The only hope for democracy abroad and the British people at home was a restoration of democratic faith, and an awakening of British democracy, led by a Government whom the people could justifiably trust. A new democratic Government could yet save the peace.

(Continued on page 2.)

## CHILDREN SUFFER IN RETREAT FROM COLLECTIVE SECURITY



Rev. G. S. Woods, M.P., with Spanish refugee children.



What Fascist bombs have done for Spain.



Fitting a child's gas mask in a British co-operative store.

# Co-operative Party Notes

## ATTERLEE.

A meeting of the Atterlee Divisional Council was held on March 24th with the following officers were elected: president, Mrs. E. Burton; vice-president, Mrs. Malign; secretary, Mr. J. S. Worrall, 745, Friarce of Wake-road.

The secretary reported the work done in the joint co-operative and Labour campaign. The meeting at the Atterlee Vicarage Hall at which the Rev. Canon A. V. Alexander, M.P., and Mr. J. H. Ford, the Labour candidate, spoke, gave an enthusiastic send-off to the campaign in this area. The film show arranged by the Co-operative Party and held in the Dornall Labour Hall, which included the film "Advance Democracy," drew one of the largest audiences that has assembled in this hall for some time. The Council decided to appoint a sub-committee to carry out the Executive duties.

The new ward organisation in the Dornall area held its first meeting on March 6th, when a large audience attended and the following officers were appointed: Mrs. S. A. Wilson (chairman), Mr. J. Stone (vice-chairman), and Mrs. J. Meadows, 23, Thame-street (secretary). The next ward meeting will be held on April 23rd at the Garth Road Institute, when Councillor J. Whittington will be the speaker.

The next Atterlee Ward meeting will be held on Monday, April 24th, in the Atterlee Co-operative Institute, at 8 p.m. The Tinsley Ward meeting will held March 28th, when Mr. J. W. White, 22, Lifford-street, will be elected secretary.

## BRIGHTSIDE.

The Brightside Party held a confidential meeting in the Shiregreen Institute, Balhous-road, on Saturday, March 25th, when Mr. J. S. Worrall gave an interesting address on the Party's new constitution. Questions and discussion showed keen interest.

## BURNGEEVE.

The April programme of the Burngreve Women's Section, which meets in the Burngreve Vestry Hall, Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m., is: 5th, Mrs. F. Ward on "Chain Stitches"; 12th, social; 19th, Mrs. Fletcher will be the speaker; 26th, Mrs. H. Austin. Secretary: Mrs. Yelland, 139, Scott-road.

## HILLSBOROUGH.

The Hillsborough Co-operative Party have continued their weekly meetings in the Guild Room during March. On the 22nd, Councillor H. Slack gave an interesting report of the previous day's Council meeting; 4th, the Conference 70 minutes to be debated at Easter were considered; 16th, carnival dance; 23rd, J. Berry was the speaker; and on the 30th Mr. C. Clarke. Programme for April: 17th, Mr. Lather Horland will be the speaker; 20th, a dance will be held in the large Institute, admission 6d.; 27th, National Conference report will be given by the secretary, Mr. W. H. Bottom.

The Women's Section which meets in the Institute on Monday afternoons, report a successful social and American tea on March 6th, when members entertained with songs and a humorous sketch. On the 20th, Mrs. Lather Horland, Councillor H. Slack addressed the meeting. Programme for April: 3rd, a social at which "The Family Album" will be presented; 10th (Easter Monday), no meeting; 17th, Mrs. N. Wood will be the speaker; and on the 24th, Mrs. F. Rodlock, J.P.

## WADSEY AND WISEWOOD.

The Wadsey and Wisewood Section, which meets in the Co-operative Institute, Wisewood-road, Wednesdays, at 7.45 p.m., report a successful whist drive held on March 25th, a film show drew a good attendance of numbers. Mr. W. G. Bramley also gave a short address. On the 15th,

Councillor H. Slack, in giving the City Council report, noted the fact that there were 6,000 old-age pensioners in Sheffield who had to apply for Public Assistance in order to receive it. His reference to the amount of meat consumed in January at the Sheffield Abattoir, whilst causing great surprise, demonstrated what a protection institutions were for against the food of the people. On March 22nd, Councillor P. Dinsley, who himself is a worker, gave a detailed account of the botching of the Sheffield Abattoir, after an interesting discussion followed. Programme for April: 5th, newspaper cuttings; 12th, no meeting; 19th, Mr. G. W. Evison will be the speaker.

## NEEPSEND.

The Neepsend Party report good meetings on March 15th and 8th respectively. Councillor E. Jones, in his report, made special reference to Air Raid Shelters and the increasing cost that would fall upon the rates for Air Raid Precautions generally. The Party decided to pay tribute to the help received from the Women's Guild and Section resulting in the successful film shows at Pyle Bank and Rutland Hall respectively. The membership is hoping to create a record. We are asked to appeal to all supporters in the district to join up. The Party meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Neepsend Co-operative Institute, Manners-street. The April programme of the Women's Section, which meets on Monday afternoons at the Institute is: 5th, reports 10th (Easter Monday), no meeting; 17th, a social; and 24th, Mrs. F. Ward (member of the Brightside and Carbrook education committee) will speak on "Education."

## SOUTHY AND NORWOOD.

The Southey and Norwood Section report a enthusiasm with which we commenced the year, having enrolled more members up to date than for any year during the past three years. On March 2nd, the Councillor K. Fisher, in giving the City Council report, reviewed the financial position of the city and proved that efficient administration had made possible a reduction of the rates without cutting the social services. On March 15th, a successful propaganda meeting was held in the Shirecliffe School. The films shown were much appreciated by a large audience and many new members were recruited. (Shirecliffe residents are especially asked to join the organisation. Already a good membership has been obtained from that area and arrangements will be made for at least a monthly meeting as soon as the numbers warrant it.) There was no meeting on the 16th owing to the Society's quarterly business meeting. On March 23rd, Councillor W. Wise spoke on the Livestock Bill, 1937, and proved that despite the opposition from meat salesmen, wholesale and retail, the Bill would prove a further safeguard to the vital food of the people.

The Committee have arranged an outing to the C.W.S. glass works at Worleop, on June 17th. Names of intending visitors should be given as soon as possible to the secretary: Mr. G. A. Holder, 84, Southey Hall-road.

The Women's Section meetings will be recommenced after the Easter holidays, on April 19th, when a visit report will be given by the Brightside and Carbrook Society's modern looker at Shiregreen. On the 26th, Lady Smith will be the speaker. Meetings in the Co-operative Institute, Southey-avenue, Wednesdays, at 2.30 p.m. Secretary: Mrs. H. Allen.

## SHEFFIELD AND ECCLESALL.

The Sheffield and Ecclesall Section report good attendances at the Party evenings which are held on Monday evenings at the Institute, 100, Park-street. March 13th, Mr. C. W. Evison, the secretary, deputised for Councillor Wise, giving an interesting address on "A New Phase of Co-operation," (Continued in next column.)

# DEFENDING THE CONSUMER

The Rev. G. S. Woods (Co-operative Member for Finsbury), introduced the Consumers' Council Bill to Parliament recently as a Private Member's Bill.

The Bill was substantially the same as that moved in 1931 before the Labour of the Co-operative. The Bill then had a administration. The Bill then had a second reading, and was in committee stage. The change of Government resulted in the measure being dropped. Mr. Woods pointed out no statutory Council set up in 1935 had no statutory powers for obtaining information. It was therefore, therefore, rather than was effective. The purpose of the Bill was to provide for the constitution of the Consumers' Council (of that Council, and powers and duties of the Board of Trade to regulate by order the prices to be charged for certain commodities.

The Council was to provide for seven members, five of them women. The Provision was also contained in the Bill for the Board of Trade to appoint specialists for conducting investigations. The machinery of local authorities was to be used for enforcing the decisions of the Council endorsed by the Board of Trade. Mr. Woods stressed the need of the Consumers' Council in light of experience under the Marketing Acts. Mr. Morrison (Co-operative Members) participating in the debate.

## They Speak for You.

Nine M.P.s on the Opposition benches of the present House of Commons have a big job. They are the spokesmen for 8,000,000 consumers organised in British Co-operative Societies—and safeguarding the consumers' interest is no sinecure.

Each year the Co-operative Party reviews the work of its Parliamentary group in a popular penny pamphlet. This year's issue, under the title "Below Big Ben," summarises the mass of legislation affecting consumers in general and co-operators in particular. High tribute is paid to the work of the Co-operative M.P.s. No great issue had been before the Co-operative but the voice of the Co-operative Group has been heard. Were reasoned arguments the telling factor, the Government would have been vanquished long since. But the Government of the day represents big business and high finance and not the interests of the electorate." The pamphlet may be obtained from the Co-operative Party Office, 17, Bank-street.

(Continued from previous column.) following upon which there was a good discussion. A propaganda meeting was held on the 17th, at which the film "Advance Democracy" was shown and appeals made by the president and secretary for increased membership. The film show was repeated at the Gleadless Road Guild Room on March 30th. It is hoped to give a new Party Section in this district during the summer and a programme is laid up for the autumn session of this year.

The April programme is: 3rd, business meeting; 10th (closed); 17th, Mrs. David Bingham, M.A.; 24th, whist drive.

The Women's Section, which meets on Thursday afternoons, discussed on March 2nd the Co-operative Party's 25th anniversary as given at the recent conference at Doncaster. On the 8th, the annual tea and social was very successful, 170 members and friends sitting down to tea, followed by an enjoyable whist drive &c. For the annual Conference of the Party was discussed, March 23rd, there was no meeting as the date coincided with the Winter Rally. The Guilds members attended. March 30th was devoted to the annual tea and social meetings for April 6th and 13th, but with an address from Mrs. Stringwoud, delegate to the annual Conference; 27th, a whist drive.

# BY-ELECTION IN HALLAM

(Continued from page 1.)

## A Constructive Programme for Peace and Prosperity.

Mr. Darvill would support every effort to make the country as far as possible safe from air attack. Air Raid Precautions were as important as the other three Defence departments. The resources of the nation should be organised in the way of man power and with every modern scientific device; but the people must be told the truth, and led by a Government they can trust. A national plan for the control and organisation of finance, of food production, foreign trade, coal and power, transport, and arms manufacture, could be operated effectively and immediately. The right Government was in power. There must be expanded with the British Commonwealth, with the United States, and other democratic and friendly peoples.

From this point, too, the peace programme will be a new basis. First of all we must strengthen democracy by electing democrats to Parliament.

## Pensions, Education, and Employment.

The Labour Party's home policy of old-age pensions of £1 a week for single persons and 35s. for married couples, of work for the unemployed, and fair deal for the special areas; for extension of educational facilities with maintenance grants, would all receive Mr. Darvill's whole-hearted support. Whilst accepting the challenge on the defence of democracy, it is his contention that Darvill will place the responsibility for the present deplorable situation on the right shoulders and also adumbrate Labour's constructive policy for peace, strength, and prosperity.

There is no doubt that this election will be a test case. A seat that has been held by the Tories successfully for years will prove to what extent the people have been roused out of their apathy by recent crises.

## A Popular Candidate.

Charles S. Darvill, still on the right side of 40, Sheffield born, with antecedents who can be traced back to the old Bradford police register records of the late 18th century, is a young man to represent for some years. Mr. Darvill is a good speaker and thoroughly familiar with Labour's case. A sportsman, he has excelled for thousands of miles. A member of the Cyclist Tourist Club of Great Britain, he has associated with the ramblers' organisation, Mr. Darvill's love of the open road has taken him abroad. In addition to his many British holiday explorations he has toured France, Germany, and Belgium and Republican Spain in 1931-1932. His visits that are indicative of Mr. Darvill's keen interest in foreign affairs.

## Rally to Labour's Banner.

President of the Sheffield Trades and Labour Council, the democratic candidate should command support from every part of the city. The announcements of the committee rooms, meetings, &c., will be made and we are asked to appear to every worker by hand or brain, every lover of freedom and democracy, rally to the support of their own cause. We can say with confidence that this young man, with his confidence and fierce candidate will worthily lead the fight.

## NOTE THE CONTRAST

In Fascist Germany a mere decree enables working hours to be extended to ten hours a day or more. Hours had to be attended national parades are made up of additional working hours. In Socialist Russia a legal limit for working day is the legal limit. In dangerous occupations the limit is 8 hours. All workers have holidays with pay.



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

SOMETIMES shopping is apt to become a pain of a pleasure, especially when we have to make our money spin as far as possible—often further. We forget how lucky we are to be able to shop at a modern co-operative store where almost everything we want is shown under one roof. Compared with the lot of the housewife in the Middle Ages, we live in the midst of a shopping paradise. She, too, had to keep her house in good order, prepare meals for her family and replace clothes as they wore out, but she had no well-stocked store at hand to supply her needs. She had to prepare months ahead, and lack of foresight on her part meant lack of food for her family.

Most of the articles which to-day are bought ready for use were made at home and a great part of the housewife's time was spent in making bread, preserving fruit, and smoking and curing hams. Spinning, weaving and making garments occupied many hours. Not only clothing, but fine linen sheets, towels, napkins and tablecloths were made at home.

We get a vivid picture of the care and attention the mistress of the house gave to her duties from the Paston letters. John Paston was a Norfolk gentleman and as a Member of Parliament he spent much time in London.

His wife, Margaret, wrote regularly to him to let him know how things were going at home. In one of her letters she asks for goods which she finds she cannot get in Norfolk. She says: "I pray you that you will buy some frieze to make your child's gown. . . And that you will buy a yard of broad cloth of black for an hood for me at 3s. 6d. or 4s. a yard. For there is none to be got in this town (Norwich). As for the child's gown, I will get it made as soon as I have the stuff."

This is a contrast with to-day, when a lady can execute almost any such task as hats, girdles and shoes, which would not well be made at home, had to be obtained from London.

Members of a family who were in London were continually worried by requests to obtain these things. But getting a letter to London or any distant place in those times was no small matter; it meant a good deal more arranging than it does now. Either a special messenger was sent or the letter was entrusted to someone who was making the journey. There were few carriers and they travelled slowly, and in those unsettled times were likely to be waylaid and robbed.

In another of her letters Margaret Paston writes: "I should send you money but I dare not put it in jeopardy, there be so many thieves stirring." In any case, communication was difficult and possible only to the wealthy. The poor people had to depend on the fairs, while all kinds of goods were offered for sale. The only cloth sold came from Yorkshire.

It was a common saying at that time, "Hang up at Martinmas, a beef for Easter." Cattle were killed and supplies of meat were salted down, stores of wheat, barley and malt were laid in, honey as a substitute for sugar, which was almost unknown in country districts, was put on the shelves. Logs for firewood and rushes for carpets were cut ready, and supplies of wool and flax were laid in to provide work for the women in the long winter evenings.

In this way, except for vegetables and fruit, the home was well provisioned for the winter. From Martinmas until the following midsummer the family had to content with the bit of bacon and the salted beef.

So you see, housekeeping in those days was an arduous task with which the housewife of to-day has no need to cope.

And now let us turn from ancient to modern times and talk of fashions. Skirts are definitely shorter than last year, but the exact length of a skirt is more individual than general. Most women like a medium length and, personally, I do not think there is any need to depart from it. The "inch-and-a-half-the-knee" style does not suit everybody and only the very young should adopt it. I do not believe in

**Too Much Bread**

SO THEY BURN IT WHILE

PEOPLE STARVE

REPRESENTATIVES of twenty-two nations met in London on January 10th. They were fairly worried.

About what?

About the fact that there is too much wheat being produced. Out of every 100 bushels which will be produced, the estimated twenty-five will be left unsold.

Some people, one delegate declared, are so poor that they can afford to eat bread only twice a year—at Christmas and Easter.

Yet in order to keep up the price thousands of bushels of wheat have been burnt. Who said that this Tory system of capitalism isn't the maddest, most idiotic one that ever existed!



This really smart style for the matron is a product of the new C.W.S. military factory in Manchester. It is of black tinsel straw with a floral crown and a fitted bandeau at the back.

being a slave to fashion. Rather do I advocate a woman wearing a style which suits her. If you prefer the medium style, then stick to it.

The short style is only applicable to outdoor clothes; indoor clothes are still long and graceful. Colours for coats and costumes are rather subdued, and there is plenty of variety in tones. Checks are still "in" and the new spot effects are very becoming.

Felt is still the favourite material for hats, which vary from the small cap to the high military hat. Many brains have cut-out patterns, while others can be

pulled into a shape to suit. Large feathers have given place to small leather mounts, small wings, and you can also wear your favourite dog in wooden imitation.

**A SEASIDE SCHOOL.**

Whatever our opinion may be as to whether girls should enter domestic service or not, here is a pleasant way of training for a domestic career. There is a Ministry of Labour centre at Scarborough where girls may spend eight or ten weeks in the summer and receive expert training and afterwards they are placed in boarding houses or hotels.

Naturally, this type of post offers more variety and more chances of advancement than does private domestic work. When the scheme was tried for the first time last year, it proved most successful and was an even greater success this summer. During their stay at the centre, the girls receive board and lodgings, uniform and pocket money. Only unemployed girls may take advantage of the scheme and they are guaranteed a post after training.

Further details may be obtained on enquiry at the women's section of the local Employment Exchange.

M.D.S.

**SHEFFIELD CO-OPERATIVE PARTY**

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

**TENTH ANNUAL TRIP**

**NORTH DEVON**

MINEBHEAD LYNNMOUTH ILFRACOMBE

SATURDAY, June 24th, 1939

**Programme:**

Train departs Sheffield L.M.S. 11-10 p.m. (Friday), calling at Hasley, BREAKFAST ON TRAIN. Arrive Taunton 5-45 a.m. MOTOR COACH TOUR via Bishops, Lydeard, Williton, Dunster, MINEBHEAD (short stay), coastal road Parlock and Country to LYNNMOUTH (1 1/2 hours stay), thence via Barbrook, Dean, Churchtown, Blackmoor Gate, Breadworthy, Kentisbury Ford, Shirwell Cross, Waynton, and Pilton to BARNSTAPLE for LUNCH. Motor-coach via Brunston, Knowle, and Twicken to ILFRACOMBE.

AFTERNOON CRUISE OFF THE NORTH DEVON COAST.

EVENING FREE at 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 fee(s) of ..... \* and membership fee (6d. per person).  
Name .....  
Address .....

\* for non-members.

**£120 million**

AND NOT A PENNY PROFIT

'S remarkable, but 's true. The C.W.S., Britain's biggest concern, with a turnover of £120 million doesn't make a penny profit because it does not seek to. It exists solely for service—not profit. Which again may sound unbelievable but is equally true.

The job of the C.W.S. is to carry on the work of wholesaling and manufacturing the necessities of life for co-operative consumers (its products are available through retail co-operative societies everywhere), and to return the surplus on its trading to its member societies (who, in turn, pass it on to you and me). That's the purpose and raison d'être of the

**C.W.S.**

**C.I.S. PROGRESS**

Tan figures which the Co-operative Insurance Society is able to publish, as the result of another year's activity, are distinctly encouraging.

"The society's experience during the year," the chairman observed at the annual meeting, "has been excellent, and we are to-day in an exceptionally strong financial position."

The C.I.S. is well established in the front rank of British insurance organizations, and no other company is showing the same rate of progress. It is, of course, the only insurance institution to which co-operators owe allegiance. It should, therefore, have their undivided support, not only as a matter of business, but also as a matter of principle. Given this consideration, the years that lie ahead should see the society make even greater progress than has been the case in the last ten or twenty years.

**Tory Paper Rebukes Prime Minister**

**"PUSHING UNDERSTATEMENT TO THE POINT OF IRONY."**

A LEADING article in the Tory "Daily Telegraph" on March 1st, strongly rebuked the Prime Minister for his "curious understatements" in his House of Commons speech on the latest Nazi aggression. Following are extracts from the article:

"He did not, for example, see reason to convict Herr Hitler of wilful bad faith. Has he, then, forgotten Herr Hitler's assurance (which we have on the latter's own authority) that once the problem of the 'other' minorities was settled he would have 'no further interest in the Czech State'? Has he forgotten Herr Hitler's declaration on September 29th that 'we want no Czechs'?"

"In another passage Mr. Chamberlain stated that the 'manner and proceedings' of Herr Hitler's proceedings of yesterday were 'in accord with the spirit of Munich.' That, surely, is pushing understatement to the point of irony. Yesterday's proceedings were not merely not in accord with the spirit of Munich; they reduced Munich to a complete and utter mockery."

"What becomes of the argument about the precise frontier lines that were to be drawn, or the number of 'zones' to be occupied, when Herr Hitler was already resolved in his own good time to swallow the lot? Above all, did not Herr Hitler adduce it as proof of his 'socialist' tendencies that, in offering the Czecho-Slovak frontier line, he was offering much less than he would have taken after a 'victorious war'?"

"What more could he have taken after a victorious war than he took yesterday, without a war at all? - The 'spirit of Munich' is dead and buried, for who can hope to 'appease' a head-constructor? With that in mind the British Government may be recommended to abstain some of their 'sunshine talk' and substitute a yet greater emphasis on vigilance."

**Labour Was Right About Munich.**

On March 14th the "Daily Express" made the following comment on Hitler's coup: "What has been Britain's reaction to the crisis? The people kept calm. In the City there was no panic-stricken investors unloading on the market. And no bargains to be picked up. Why are our heads cooler? Not because our hearts are hardened. Not because we have no sympathy with the Czechs. No. But we are not shocked by stale news. Munich decided that Germany was the boss in Eastern Europe."

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**Play The Game, You Cads**

CO-OPERATIVE College students, though they come from four continents, are as capable of fun as the undergraduates of any university. Proof of their ability to "rag" is supplied by an incident which recently had disastrous results—for the students.

Each week-day, one of the students volunteers to bring an empty egg-box from the College Hostel in Kersal to Holyoake House, Manchester. While he attends his classes, the box is filled, and in the afternoon he returns to the hostel carrying eggs for to-morrow's breakfast.

The "rag" in question occurred when a fellow-student hid a brick in the egg-box, and the volunteer, not noticing the additional weight, carried it to Manchester in the usual way. At Holyoake House, the member of the staff whose duty it is to have the box filled noticed the extra weight and concluded that somebody else had done the job. So the box was left unopened, until the late arrival of the student picked it up, and without examining it, took back to Kersal what he imagined to be a box of eggs.

Next morning the box was opened and . . . well, the students had prizes for breakfast.

**NATIONAL SERVICE GIVES RIGHT TO DEMAND END OF ARMS RAMP**

That the co-operative movement in Sheffield would be asked to undertake voluntary national service without protest had a right to ask that wicked exploitation should cease was the manufacturers should cease was the argument put forward by Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P. for the Hillsborough Co-division, when he addressed a Co-operative and Labour rally on March 1st in connection with the joint campaign against the Government.

Mr. George Dallas (national chairman) spoke on behalf of the Labour Party.

**Co-operative Initiative.**

In his speech, Mr. Alexander reminded the meeting that the joint campaign was instituted by the Co-operative Party, and said that when they asked Labour headquarters if they would unite in a joint effort to turn out the most disastrous Government in the history of the country, Labour leaders at once responded, as they always did when a straight and reasonable request was made.

Without the triple basis of working-class organisation, experience and philosophy, he saw no hope of having that kind of solid, continuous government that could lead the workers into peace and security.

Dealing with armaments profits and the Conservative Party attempts to build up party funds, Mr. Alexander said that he had hit it from more than one quarter that visits were being paid to armaments contractors with the gentle suggestion that if they secured Government contracts they might contribute to the party funds.

He wished the people in the great armaments city of Sheffield would make up their minds that in the case of the rearmament programme extortion should not take place.

**Profiteering.**

Asking where the profits on steel shellers were going, Mr. Alexander said the co-operative movement had been willing at all times of national



Mr. A. V. Alexander, M.P.

emergency, to assist in whatever measures were necessary for the defence of the people, and for maintaining food supplies.

They had given the Government continuous service without charge. They had increased already, but were unfortunately break out, for large numbers of co-operative managers to serve the nation, and these men would not get any retaining fee.

In a damaging attack on the Government, Mr. George Dallas (chairman of the Labour Party) stated that twenty years after the war to end war this country and nearly every other country was preparing in the most amazing way for the greatest abundance of weapons of destruction mankind has ever known. This was so very largely, but not wholly, because Mr. Chamberlain and his predecessors, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, failed in their duty to this country and to the democracies of the world.

**A BAKER WHO COMES FIRST!**

At the recent All-England bakery exhibition in London, the Brighton and Carbrook Society, Sheffield, were awarded first prize for the white loaf, first for cob, and first for wedding cake, and at the half-yearly meeting of the society held recently the president (Alderman T. H. Watkins) complimented the bakery manager (Mr. S. F. Wood) and the staff upon a fine achievement.

Pleasing as these results must be to all concerned, it must seem quite trivial to Mr. Wood, who, though still in the twenties, has won a thousand medals and quite a few championships in bakery competitions. Such a record makes us wonder if it has ever been equalled.

He was appointed manager of the "B. & C." bakery two years ago, when he was only 27, and when the society spent about £12,000 on extensions and additional plant.

During the period of his management at Sheffield the number of socks of flour baked into bread has increased by 4,538, and the value of confectionery has increased during the same period by £8,245.

Mr. Wood has the backing of an enterprising committee of management, who have just installed a machine to slice and wrap bread at the rate of 38 loaves a minute. Each 3-lb. loaf is cut into 26 slices.



Mr. S. F. Wood.

**THE LIMIT**

The following is vouched for by Mr. George Griffiths, M.P.

An unemployed man had twenty palleys. They started to lay and his allowance was reduced by 2s. 6d. a week because he was selling the eggs to get out a living.

That's only one of the many despicable things that occur under the National Government's callous Means Test.

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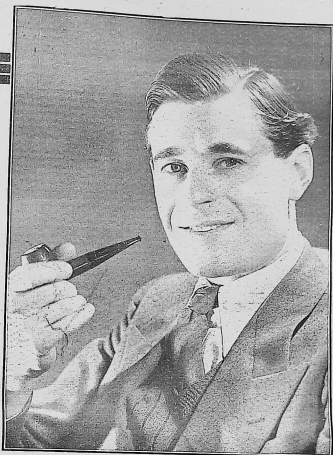
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is. It strikes me folks haven't reckoned this dividend idea up properly. Otherwise, the 'cut price' people would be having a thin time . . . I know *we've* quite a nice little sum accumulated in dividends . . . And believe it or not, Bob, I even get my 'baccy' from the Stores now—swells the total you know—and it's jolly good 'baccy' too . . . That's the beauty of this dividend idea, the more you spend the more you save . . . If I were you, old chap, I'd certainly mention it to the wife. It costs nothing to join you know.

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# The Bitter Fruit of Munich

## Labour's Indictment of Prime Minister's Policy

"As I sat listening to the Prime Minister's speech, I heard the doubtful cheers that came from Members opposite . . . but what man in this House, in the privacy of his own home, will find any consolation in what happened yesterday. It was a day of humiliation and shame for us. We have allowed the truth to be set aside. We have allowed violence to take the place of reason and justice, and violence has triumphed."

This indictment of the Government's foreign policy was uttered by Mr. David Grenfell in the House of Commons on March 15, after the Prime Minister had told the House that the German troops had marched into the Czech provinces and that he "bitterly regretted" what had occurred.

In a speech which impressed the House by its passionate sincerity, Mr. Grenfell pointed out that Hitler's latest act of aggression was the inevitable consequence of the failure to stand by the League policy of Collective Security. "We have been told," he said, "that the Government is trying to find 'apportionment.' All that we witness day after day is a steady and violent disintegration of the European

system, and 'apportionment' instead of an added impetus to it, gives the impression that disintegration, only of less compass here and a concession there to the intimidation and violence, and the cumulative effect is now obvious to everybody."

### Prime Minister's "Simple Faith."

Quoting the Prime Minister's declaration, on October 3, 1938, "It is my hope, and my belief, that under the new system of guarantees, the new Czechoslovakia will find a greater security than she has ever enjoyed in the past." Mr. Grenfell said it was incredible that the Prime Minister still believed that what was done at Munich was done in good faith. "Not for a single day," he added, "have the promises made at Munich been observed."

After citing the main points of the Munich Agreement, which were not carried out, Mr. Grenfell declared that Czechoslovakia had been occupied under threat and intimidation, in exactly the same manner as she would have been had there never been a Munich Agreement. "There is no justification for the Prime Minister's simple faith,"

he added. "It is a credulity which poses all understanding . . . He is a party to Munich. He must be a party to the consequences of Munich. We are entering upon a period not of peace and security in Europe, but a period fraught with immediate and terrible dangers."

### Rally the Peace Forces of the World.

Concluding, Mr. Grenfell asked what action the Government would take even at this late hour, to rally the scattered forces of those who desire peace. He urged that an effort should be made to convince the world that Britain was not too selfish to sit round a table and give and take in free exchange with other nations.

He called for a great gesture for peace to all the nations, and an equally firm gesture signifying that Britain would stand by all those who defend liberty and freedom for the people in any land.

"I would like such a message to be conveyed direct to the great United States of America—an indispensable factor in the rehabilitation of world standards. No less important is the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This is not the time for prejudice or promise. We must try to rally all the peace and will that work for goodwill and peace by that means being peace to all."

Prime Minister Humbled by Hitler. Winding up the debate for the

Labour Party, Mr. Hugh Dalton declared that at Munich the Prime Minister was out-manoeuvred and humbugged by Hitler. The events of those past few days had tipped the balance of power still more steeply against Britain and her friends in Europe. Hitler, by his latest aggression, had absorbed great additional resources in steel, arms production, and armaments. For that the Prime Minister, with his personal foreign policy, which had failed so catastrophically, must carry complete responsibility.

Mr. Dalton put in a strong plea for action to help the great mass of people in Czechoslovakia who are in danger as a result of the Nazi invasion. He quoted the late Sir Austen Chamberlain's description of Nazi Germany as a land where "it is a crime to be in favour of peace and a crime to be a Jew." Concluding, he asked when this "black death" that was spreading over Europe was to be arrested, and he added:

"Either we are to join hands with other nations to seek by common action to arrest it, or it will flow on until it has reached almost to the shores of this island itself, and until we are left to resist it, having allowed overwhelming odds to be piled up against us. Having been unwilling to defend others in their hour of necessity, we shall have lost all claim to the friendship and help of others, until at the last, friendless and forsaken, we shall face our fate alone."

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