Principle FIVE



Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

Newsletter – October 2020

Co-operative News will be celebrating 150 years of continuous service to the Co-op Movement next year.

It has changed in appearance over the years. The first edition came out in September 1871 and looked like this:

THE

Co-operative News:

A Record of Industrial, Political, Humanitarian, and Educational Progress.

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

TERMS PER ANNUM BY POST, 6s. 6D.

Vol. I .- No. 1.

SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1871.

PRICE 1d.

WHAT IS CO-OPERATION?

THE question which heads this article is to appearance so simple that many persons will be almost inclined to call it foolish, and yet a very little thought will show that it is much more easy to put the question than to find a proper reply to it.

Thousands of men who are members of Friendly Societies or of Trades Unions, and who are used to march in procession to the annual dinner under the silken honger inscribed in education.

the silken banner inscribed in golden letters "Each for all, and all for each," and to listen to the after dinner eloquence which sets forth the amount of good which their particular society is accomplishing; and how much more could be done if all the workers at the trade would join the union and cooperate for its ends; or if all men were prudent enough to be members of Friendly Benefit Societies will think that they need no instruction on this which the these that they are the state of the state subject, for that they are already practical Co-

And certainly the tens of thousands of men whose purchases constitute the millions sterling which pass through the various retail stores every year, and who, when listening at the annual tea parties, know practically the truth of the advocacy parties, know practically the truth of the advocacy which shows that men have, by joining Co-operative Stores, learned prudent habits, have secured to themselves profits which formerly they gave to

merit in all the efforts now being made by working men throughout the country beyond the mere money profit realised by the me

Verily, there is much difference in principle, but the reply to the second part of this question depends very much upon the ultimate object at which men aim in their efforts at Co-operation.

We can easily conceive the existence of society in any one of three conditions, viz., -Competition, Communism, and Co-operation.

The first or competitive state now exists, and except as controlled by municipal law, may be aptly described as, "Every one for himself, and the devil take the hindmost!" And, really, the devil's share is very large in society, as is proved by our prisons and workhouses, and by the hosts of casuals who throng our streets by day, and fester in our attics and cellars at night in every direction. One of our sweetest poets says. of our sweetest poets says,

"Man's real wants are few,
Health and a quiet mind include them all;"

but how difficult it is for a considerable proportion of our fellows to secure these simple elements. A quiet mind without health is next to impossible; and health without a sufficiency of food, clothing,

a good harvest is generally good for all; but when aterial comes to be worked up, then labour invested in buildings, machinery, and wages are all more or less on speculation; the employer invests in the hope and belief that he will secure a profit; but his capital may never come back again; he may lose all which he has invested, and the work-people whom he has employed may have to grope for other employers just as employers grope about for markets for their goods. This speculation for, and blindness with regard to, the future, is the peculiar charateristic of competitive society. It developes immense powers of production, produces intense excitement, makes brilliant successes and vested in buildings, machinery, and wages are all developes immense powers of production, produces intense excitement, makes brilliant successes and disastrous failures. It gives us motive power equal to the strength of a hundred millions of men, and leaves us with a million of paupers amongst twenty-one millions of population. It produces clothing for the world, whilst our streets are througed with beggars in rags. Under it we see common workmen become merchant princes, and men who have been lapped in luxury become slouching beggars. It is a lottery with a few splendid prizes, a large number of which barely pay for the tickets, and a considerable proportion of blanks.

The second condition of society to which we

The current edition (October 2020) looks like this:



In the current edition Gillian Lonergan writes;

Co-op News: informing and educating about co-operation.

'The frequency, design and layout of the News may have changed over the years, but the valuable breadth of coverage has not'

You can read this article **HERE**

Also in this edition Rebecca Harvey writes about about <u>co-operative journalism</u>

Susan Press writes about <u>The Sheffield Co-operator</u>

And Miles Hadfield asks;

Social Media: Can co-op ways of working lead to a more civil future for Facebook and Twitter?

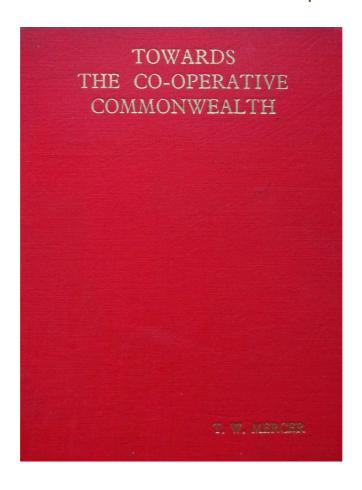


https://www.thenews.coop/uk/

T.W. Mercer asked the question "Why poverty in the midst of Plenty?". This was the subtitle of his book "Towards the Co-operative Commonwealth" written in 1936 to commemorate the opening of 'Pioneer House' Gray's Inn Road, London – the London Centre of Co-operative Press, of 22 Long Millgate, Manchester.

Socialists and co-operators might ask the same question in 2020.

This book has been added to the Principle 5 library



Other books which have been added to the library this month are:

A Life of A. V. Alexander (Churchill's Favourite Socialist by John Tilley)

The biography of Ellen Wilkinson by Betty D Vernon

Enterprises That Change Lives by Edgar Parnell (pub. 2018)

Sheffield Co-operative Party published 'The Sheffield Co-operator' a monthly newspaper from May 1922 until July 1939.

During the 1920s and 30s The Sheffield Co-operator was the only paper in Sheffield to constantly advocate co-operative principles and promote co-operatives. It reported on all of the issues which were of interest to people in Sheffield and refuted the negative reporting from the mainstream press towards co-operatives at that time.

It had a guaranteed circulation of 30,000

The Sheffield Co-operator, June 1934

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Principle 5 Study Group

A new book by Jonathan Porritt – 'Hope In Hell: a decade to confront the climate emergency' came out this year. We have a copy of it in the library. This could provide a focus for a study/reading group. The climate/environmental crisis is being addressed by people of goodwill all over the world. Please get in touch if you would like to join this group which will be conducted by email.

Other books in the library which will be useful are:

Co-opportunity

How to Give Up Plastic

Small is Beautiful
The Power of Just Doing Stuff
This Changes Everything

Unlocking Sustainable Cities

<u>The Transition Handbook – From oil dependency to local</u> <u>resilience</u>

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September Update From The Co-operative College



Co-operatives UK announce new Chief Executive

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Principle 5 Resource Centre is open by appointment to one visitor at a time.

Back editions of the newsletter are available to read on the website home page:

https://www.principle5.coop/

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