

and hard thinking has to be done. The early strain upon the commercial mind has given place to the call for the relief of distress. This has appealed to every co-operative organization, and the welfare of others has been the chief thought.

At the Slaithwaite Society's half-yearly meeting the committee put forward the following resolution: "That the committee be empowered to form themselves into a distress committee, with power to co-opt other members, and that they have the authority of this general meeting to draw from the reserve fund any sums to relieve the distress of our own members as occasion may warrant." It was pointed out that the committee had no means of ascertaining how much would be required, therefore they were asking for power to utilize the whole of the reserve fund (£4,733) if they had need for it. The resolution was carried unanimously.

"A word of praise," writes the Skipton Local Editor, "is due to the employees, who came forward and agreed to accept less wages based upon an average of half-a-day's pay per man for every weekly decrease of £100 on sales."

It was resolved at the Bristol Society's half-yearly meeting "That the action of the committee in making a grant of bread to the value of £28 to relieve distress amongst Bristol miners be confirmed." Also, "That the sum of £200 be placed to a war distress fund." The secretary also stated that "the employees had freely agreed to give up the idea of this year's outing. In regard to the grant of 4s. per head, expressions of opinion had been given on all hands by employees favoring the same being pooled for the express purpose of relieving the wives and dependents of those who had been called out or had volunteered for military service." A further decision of the employees was that a sum of 2d. in the £ per head be deducted from wages towards a special fund.

"We hear," says the Belfast Local Editor, "that many of the Irish rural co-operative societies are forming grocery distributive departments on account of the increase in food prices. War is an undoubted evil, but out of evil flows good."

In the same pages appears a paragraph about Dublin co-operators and the food crisis of the now far-off outbreak of the war. "When war broke out the committee immediately inserted advertisements in the local press stating that on account of the food panic prices prevailing they had decided to supply goods to members at cost price, plus the cost of delivery. Small orders only were taken, and no goods were supplied to non-members. Commenting on this stand against the panic, the Dublin press (for the first time, we understand) acknowledged that there was such a society as the Dublin Industrial in existence.

The action of the Dublin Society ought to remind the Dublin public that there were some organizations in the city which placed country before pocket, and we feel confident that some of the plucked ones will turn their thoughts in a co-operative direction in future."

The committee of the Wolverhampton Society recently received a deputation of private traders, who urged them to raise their price of bread. The committee firmly refused. "This is one of the places," writes the local editor, "where the value of co-operation comes in. Our committee had contracted for flour in the days of peace, and decided to be loyal to their members, and let them have the benefit. Of course, the others (our opponents) had also contracted, but did they intend to let their customers have

they were largely entitled to on all incoming consignments, but which they had extended to all their present stocks for deliveries to their customers—the local bakers. The figures of this war risk insurance was said to be 10 per cent. and on these grounds there seems to be some justification for our opponents' increasing—but this is not the point we wish to emphasize. We simply mention it to show how helpless is the advocate of private individualism. Right from the miller to the consumer there is no security whatever against these tactics."

"It may be said that the miller had this to pay. Possibly he might have some to pay by now, but it is a certainty that he had not to pay it at the time he imposed it, and thereby hangs the question of honest dealing in this system of in-

Darite Society (Cornwall) comes the information that the secretary and local editor has been offered and has accepted the post of head organizer of the Fisheries Organization Society, a new organization started under Government auspices to lead the fishing industry into co-operative lines.

If overlapping is a grievous disease the remedy of amalgamation is seldom acceptable. Even where jealousies do not create a deadlock, or old-fashioned methods stand in the way, there may be serious impediments even between the most friendly societies in the way of amalgamation. From time to time we have noted the extraordinary success of co-operation in the Liverpool area, and now comes news of satisfactory negotiations between the City of Liverpool and Toxteth societies. The latest yearly sales are respectively £351,270 and £228,732. "When the amalgamation is effected," writes the Liverpool Local Editor, "we will have one of the largest societies in the country, and it only requires the common sense of the members and their loyal and continued support to insure Liverpool becoming a veritable stronghold of progressive co-operation and a serious, tho' friendly, rival to the 'million sales' societies."

The following tit-bit comes from the Parkstone and Bournemouth local pages: "A well known doctor in Poole was consulted recently as to the use of a certain soap for the skin. Being a modest journalist, and not a privileged doctor, I will modify his expression somewhat, and state that this is what he said: 'Confound this stuff! What do you want to buy this for when you can get C.W.S. soap, the best you can have?' This is a fact, and the worthy doctor is not a member, altho' he buys our soap." B. P.

From "Co-operation for All"

"Half a loaf is bread, but half a truth is untruth."

"Moses would have lacked much power from God if he had not been a most efficient organizer."

"Dividend on purchases is the best scheme of 'profit-sharing' ever invented."

"Under capitalism the money is more than the man. Under co-operation the man is more than the money."

"The co-operative movement is a college of commerce, a college whose doors stand always open, a college in which the only fee is service."

"The co-operative is the woman's movement. Wage-earners are combined in their trade unions; she, the consumer and the representative of consumers, has the stores."

"This globe of earth, a fraction of cosmic dust in the Milky Way, is yet a wide and splendid place. It is a world of green valleys, lit by sunshine and visited by love. The stage is set for a worthier drama than man has yet played. Truth and hope and joy, strength and wisdom and beauty, the words that kindle the heart are words of prophecy."

Speaking at Pelsall recently, Mr. Abbotts (president of the Walsall Society) stated that a certain colliery company had just written to that society and asked them to raise their prices; other merchants were complaining, and unless the Walsall Society did raise the prices they (the colliery company) would cease to supply them with coal. The request was promptly declined.

The C.W.S. is maintaining the best traditions of the movement by keeping prices as low as possible, by equalizing employment among the staff, by contributing generously to the relief funds, and by making up the wages of those who have joined the colors. We have thus every reason to be proud of the manner in which our central organization has dealt with the situation up to the present, and if societies, committees, and members will only stand firm by their principles, the movement should emerge from the ordeal still further strengthened. It is possible that the present practical demonstration of the absolute necessity for the existence of co-operation may do more to arouse the indifferent and apathetic than years of preaching by the agitators.—Hendon "Wheatseaf."

THE SHEPHERD BOY

It was a Hebrew shepherd-boy
Who watched his flocks by night,
And o'er the plains of Bethlehem
Beheld a wondrous light—
A star that dazzled like the sun,
And pointed on before,
Until he followed with his sheep
Unto a stable door.

The shepherd-boy is dust in earth
For centuries untold,
But still, they say, on Christmas Eve
He watches by his fold;
And when the silver stars come out
Above the fields and fells,
He starts to journey round the world
And ring the Christmas bells.
—Minna Irving

the benefit? Supposing prices had been put up, what would have been the result? Why, our society would have made larger profits, which would have been divided out amongst the members in dividends, but where would the larger profits our opponents made have gone to?"

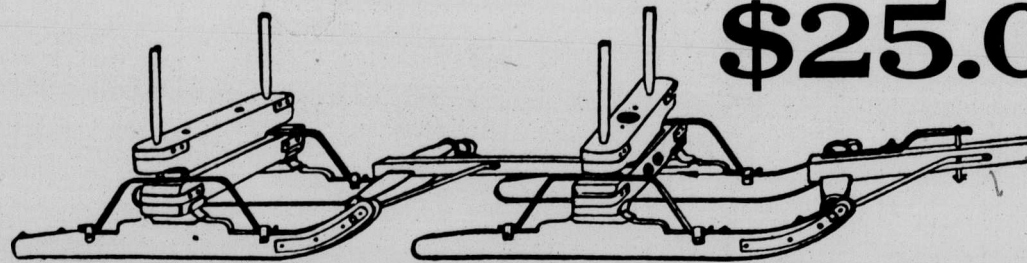
"There is also another point about this last item which I should like to impress upon our members. When the deputation interviewed our committee the one great point in their argument in favor of increasing prices was that all their large millers were charging a certain percentage on contracts for insurance against war risks—a proceeding which we understood

dividualism. Now, as far as our dealing in the society is concerned, the C.W.S. are our millers, and very shortly after this action of charging war risks on existing contracts was legalized our C.W.S. announced in bold terms that they would complete all contracts at prices booked, and not charge any war risks."

Benevolent blessing has been bestowed upon co-operation by many statesmen. Practical recognition is something very different. The fine display of co-operative business capacity at the time of the Dublin strike opened many official eyes, as the large Government orders to co-operative factories give evidence. From

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