

Society News and Notes

With this issue of the *Bulletin* we are sending out a second invitation to members to "stay in the fold" for 1970/71: and if the first invitation escaped your notice please reassure us with a quick response to the second!

Future Organisation of the Society

The National Officers have been considering recently whether any reorganisation of the Society would serve its purposes better. The general feeling has been that regionally our results are rather meagre, though they vary from region to region; nationally they are more substantial; but even on the national level we need to do more to match the efforts involved and the hopes with which we started. Two of the particular questions we have looked at are:

- (a) Is a primary purpose of the Society to increase the number of people in universities and colleges interested in the movement, studying its problems and engaged in useful dialogue with it? This surely would be widely agreed.
- (b) Would this aim be better achieved if the basis of the organisation were universities and colleges, or groups of them throughout the country, and if there were some concentration on gathering for each of these staff and students with some degree of interest in the Co-operative movement?

The National Officers will be returning to this question at their next meeting in January, and we would be grateful for views of any members.

Research

The National Officers have been engaged in formulating some general advice to the Education Executive of the Co-operative Union about the disposition of a College Jubilee Fund which was raised in 1969, and is available at least in part for promoting research: £3,800 in gifts and £4,300 annually on seven year covenants. The general guidelines favoured by the Officers are now being set out, but it is timely also to draw attention again to the modest but helpful commitment by the Society itself: that the Society is willing to consider small grants for specific research projects; that the limit for each grant should be £30; that they are, of course, intended to assist projects which have a Co-operative relevance; and that the kind of expenditure for which it is intended is travelling expenses, substantial postage costs, special material, etc.

A.G.M. and Conference, 1971

This will be held on Friday and Saturday, 16th/17th April and full details will be sent later. In the meantime please earmark the dates and look ahead to the conference papers: on Problems of Co-operative Finance by K. A. Noble, Director, C.W.S. and R. A. Lee, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, C.R.S., and on Aspects of Co-operative Industrial Relations by Lloyd Harrison, Chief Officer, Greater Nottingham Society.

Reports from the Regions

Metropolitan and South

Joint Convenors:

MR. W. J. PHILPOTT, B.SC.(ECON.), M.B.I.M.,

Head of the Department of Management and Merchandising,
College for the Distributive Trades.

MR. JOHN WALKER,

Food Trades Officer,

Luton Industrial Co-operative Society.

At the meeting of the branch held in June Mr. J. R. Walker submitted a paper concerning the effects of Selective Employment Tax on Co-operative trade. A meeting was held in September when the branch discussed the result of a small piece of research into the function of Education Committees. Mr. Alan Teesdale of the College for Distributive Trades is undertaking some research by way of producing a business model against which the performance of Co-operative Societies can be judged and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Midland

Joint Convenors:

MR. C. S. NUTTALL, B.A.,

Staff Tutor in Economics, Department of Extra-Mural Studies,
University of Birmingham.

MR. LLOYD A. HARRISON, C.S.D.,

Chief Executive Officer,

Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society.

The seminar on "Social Structure and Industrial Relations in Co-operative Societies" which was to have been held in Derby on 13th October has been postponed until a later date. At this seminar Mr. D. E. Lock of Loughborough University of Technology will present a paper on this topic.

North

Joint Convenors:

DR. J. STEVENSON, PH.D., IUR.D., B.A.(HONS.),

Principal, Monkwearmouth College of Further Education.

MR. P. HARTY, snr.,

Education Secretary,

Newcastle Co-operative Society.

No regional activity has taken place since the last issue of the *Bulletin*, but a meeting will be convened shortly to discuss future activities.

Yorkshire and Humberside

Joint Convenors:

MR. T. E. STEPHENSON, B.A. (DUNELM)
Department of Management Studies,
University of Leeds,

MR. S. P. CLARKE, C.S.D.,
Secretary and Chief Executive Officer,
Bradford Co-operative Society.

No regional activity has taken place since the last issue of the *Bulletin* but a meeting will be convened shortly to discuss future activities.

North-West

Joint Convenors:

MR. J. F. ROPER, M.A.,
Faculty of Economic and Social Studies,
University of Manchester.

MR. F. BRUCKSHAW,
Editor,

Co-operative News.

A meeting of the North-Western region of the Society will be held on 16th October at the University of Manchester when Mr. E. Mather, Chief Executive Officer of Co-operative Retail Services Limited, will introduce the topic "A National Society".

Special Note

ROBERT OWEN BI-CENTENARY 1971

The Co-operative College is organising a summer school for the week beginning 17th July 1971 in which various experts will deal with the relation of Owen's ideas and experiments to contemporary problems.