

Society News and Notes

Annual General Meeting and Conference

As noted in the enclosed letter, this will be held at the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall on Friday and Saturday, 7th/8th April, 1972. In addition to the business meeting it is likely to include sessions on "The Future of the Co-operative Movement in the Next Ten Years", based on a paper by John Hughes, Ruskin College, Oxford, and "The Formation of a Regional Society" based on a paper by T. E. Stephenson, University of Leeds.

Booking forms are enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

The Formation of a Regional Society

This issue of the Bulletin contains a special feature by Mr. T. E. Stephenson of the University of Leeds on "The Formation of a Regional Society". In view of its widespread interest and importance, we are printing additional copies of this issue, and these are available on request from the Secretary at Stanford Hall at a price of 7½p. The additional copies are being printed with the aid of a grant from the University of Leeds. The National Officers greatly appreciate this practical expression of support.

Meetings of the National Officers

At their last meeting the Officers reviewed the arrangements instituted two years ago, to invite the Regions which were not represented among the National Officers to nominate a representative to attend the meetings. It was noted that the Northern, Scottish and South Western Regions were at present not represented, and it was agreed that these Regions should be invited to appoint representatives.

Consumers and the Common Market

A special summer course on "Consumers and the Common Market" is to be held at the Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, from 8th-14th July, 1972. The course will be concerned generally with the European Economic Community and the interests of consumers and Co-operatives in it, in Britain and the present member-countries. Various experts are being invited to introduce the topics and participants will be welcome from all the countries involved. Further information is available from the Co-operative Union Education Department, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

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.

The branch held meetings in June and September. A discussion paper on Selective Employment Tax has received consideration but it has been decided to defer further examination of this topic due to changed circumstances. Two papers prepared for discussion within the Midlands, by Mr. M. Gibson and Mrs. J. Stansfield, have been circulated to members.

The branch is due to meet again in January, when the topic for consideration will be Superannuation Funds.

Midland

Joint Convenors:

MR. M. GIBSON,
Department of Economics,
University of Leicester.

MR. LLOYD A. HARRISON, C.S.D.,
Chief Executive Officer,
Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society.

Since the meeting on 19th June the Midland Section has met at Stanford Hall in August and Derby on 25th September when papers by Mrs. J. Stansfield and Mr. M. Gibson were presented. In accordance with policy decided at the June meeting these will now be subject to revision and joint consultation so that a composite paper may be presented at a weekend school to be held in February 1972.

Northern

Joint Convenors:

DR. J. STEVENSON, PH.D., IUR.D., B.A.(HONS.),
Principal, Monkwearmouth College of Further Education.

MR. G. W. BIRLESON,
Member Relations Officer,
North Eastern Co-operative Society.

The branch met on 11th October when Mr. J. B. Lister, Lecturer in Charge of Distributive Studies at Monkwearmouth College of Further Education, introduced the film, *The Managerial Grid*. The film dealt with training techniques, with particular reference to training for management. A lively discussion followed the presentation of the film and Mr. Lister was thanked for the effectiveness of his contribution.

Scotland

Joint Convenors:

DR. T. F. CARBERY, M.SC.(ECON.), D.P.A.,
Senior Lecturer, Department of Commerce,
University of Strathclyde,

MR. G. R. GAY, J.P.,
President, St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Association.

Members of the branch attended a conference organised by PACE on 22nd October when Lord Taylor of Gryfe introduced the topic 'Problems of the Public Sector'. Lord Taylor referred in particular to the need to develop consumer councils within nationalised industries.

Western

Joint Convenors:

MR. G. I. LEWIS,
Extra-Mural Department,
University College of Swansea.

MR. W. L. G. EVANS,
Chief Executive Officer,
Ynysybwl Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd.

The branch has held three meetings over the period of the last few months. Following a period of inactivity the branch has consolidated its position with newly appointed Convenors.

Discussions have centred upon the subject matter for meetings, and three areas of activity have been determined. First, the presentation of papers by a number of Society Officials on the theme 'Employee Involvement in the Co-operative Movement'. Secondly, an essay competition for Co-operators upon the theme of the 'Co-operative contribution . . .' This is a joint venture with the South Western Education Council. Contributions will be assessed and discussed by the Society. Finally, the branch has been particularly involved with a project to establish the South Wales Library of Labour History and is providing assistance to the three graduates sponsored by the Social Science Research Council at present engaged in this task.