

Reports from the Regions

Local activity has been developing since the last issue of the *Bulletin* and reports from the regions covering the last few months are given below:

Midland

Acting Joint Conveners:

MR. J. WHITFIELD, B.A.,
Nuffield Research Unit in Statistical Sociology,
University of Keele.

MR. LLOYD A. HARRISON, C.S.D.
Managing Secretary,
Nottingham Co-operative Society.

"Democratic Participation in Retail Co-operatives" was Mr. Whitfield's subject when he addressed the inaugural meeting held at Stanford Hall on 20th January and attended by fifteen members. After discussion it was agreed that the following research in detail should be encouraged: management—its structure, line and function in the regional societies; democratic control within the society. Mr. Whitfield was appointed convener in place of Dr. Ostergaard. The next meeting was arranged for 25th May.

North

Acting Joint Conveners:

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

MR. W. MARTIN REED, C.S.D.,
Secretary and Chief Executive Officer,
Newcastle Co-operative Society.

The inaugural meeting was held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 4th January, attended by eleven members. Mr. W. M. Reed, one of the two conveners, took the chair and outlined the purpose of the Society. A lengthy discussion ensued on branch activities and it was agreed to meet quarterly if possible.

Approaches are to be made for speakers and some specific aspects for future study were determined, which it was agreed members should consider for further discussion at a subsequent meeting: these included management education, career entrants, regional developments and their relevancy to the Co-operative Movement, closer working relations between societies and measurement of business efficiency, and the historical development of local societies linked with the communities in which they are situated. It was agreed that as soon as it was finalised, details of the programme should be circulated and further approaches made to secure additional support.

Yorkshire and Humberside

Acting Joint Conveners:

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.

Members of the Society participated in a November conference held jointly with the National Co-operative Education Association in Scarborough when Mr. J. Roper and Mr. Lloyd Harrison spoke to their Fabian pamphlet "Towards Regional Co-operatives". Some seventy people attended and this "sparked off" further conferences at district and society levels.

The Society has been asked to join in a conference on the Industrial Training Act organised for 9th March by the University of Leeds and addressed by Mr. Roy Hattersley, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

North-West

Joint Conveners:

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

MR. F. BRUCKSHAW,
Editor,
Co-operative News.

At its second meeting held in Manchester University on 9th February, the branch devoted itself to a consideration of the problems of democratic control in regional societies. Members had before them descriptions, prepared by the chief officers of the societies, of the machinery adopted in the Bolton, Bradford, Birkenhead and Bath & West Societies. These were elaborated in short addresses by Mr. G. W. Calcroft, chief executive officer of Bolton Society, and Mr. S. P. Clarke, secretary and chief executive officer of Bradford Society. Both pointed out the achievements and some weaknesses in the existing set-up, particularly in the matter of district committees. Similar problems were mentioned in the documentation from Bath and Birkenhead. It was stressed that there is need to make the best use of these committees and to overcome some of the existing problems.

Dr. Alec Wilson was in the chair and there was an attendance of about twenty-four members. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting on 26th April.

Scotland

Acting Joint Conveners:

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.

Eighteen people were present at the inaugural meeting held on 19th November in Glasgow when the meeting was addressed by Mr. J. M. Wood, Parliamentary Secretary of the Co-operative Union, who spoke on "Consumers in Europe".

South

Joint Conveners:

MR. PETER SHEA, B.Sc.
Senior Lecturer in Educational Psychology,
Hockerill College of Education

(A second appointment is to be made).

Aims and terms of reference were discussed and agreed at the inaugural meeting held in London on 24th January and attended by twelve members. An acting convener is being sought to replace Mr. McNab who has had to withdraw because of business commitments. The next meeting will be held on 28th March.

South-West

It is hoped shortly to appoint two acting joint conveners.

West

Acting Joint Conveners:

MR. W. E. JENKINS,
Extra-Mural Department,
University of Swansea,

MR. M. E. MORGAN,
Group General Manager,
Swansea C.R.S.

Since the inaugural meeting held in September steps have been taken to achieve an increased membership. A working body has been formed with five representatives from co-operative and academic sources in addition to the three officers. The first meeting of this committee is proposed for April.