

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

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The Editor,
"St. Ives," The Avenue.

One of the dangers of democracy is its short-sightedness, and consequent proneness to hasty and ill-considered judgments, formed without or with only partial consideration of facts, or upon facts so distorted by prejudiced opinion that they appear, as does the insect under the microscope altogether out of proportion to their actual size or significance.

Another danger equally great is an attitude of mind, exemplified by the man, who when found loudly declaiming against matters of public importance and policy, gave as a reason for his declamatory utterances that he was "agen the government," and being further questioned regarding his attitude in case the "gov'ment" was changed, declared that he would still be "agen the gov'ment," and in short that his mental attitude was "agen" authority, organization, or control of any kind. Such an attitude is of course nonsensical folly, its success would mean confusion, failure, chaos, to any democratic institution or society, while its result to the individual is a warped judgment, an inability to see any question in all its bearings, inevitably followed by an unfitness to take an intelligent part in organizing or developing institutions or schemes of a democratic character. For to us it seems self-apparent that a policy of mere negation leads nowhere. It is no easier to build the social fabric on opposition, than to build houses without materials, and while fair, just, and reasonable criticism is not objectionable, but often very useful, an unreasoning "agen the gov'ment" attitude, the object of which is to create trouble, stir up strife, and make the already difficult duty, more difficult still, is unmanly, devoid of intelligence, and ridiculous in the extreme. But that even is not its greatest condemnation. The greatest condemnation of the "agen the gov'ment" attitude is that its appeal must always be made to individual self-interest. It is never what are you willing to surrender of your personal comfort, time, talent, or possessions in order that the lives of your fellows may be enriched by your sacrifice, but always "don't forego your privileges, don't deny yourselves of anything for other's sake, see to it that your personal liberty is not curtailed, look well after number one, don't trouble about society as a whole."

Fortunately, however, for human progress, the majority are not swayed by self-interest alone. Human nature is too noble a thing to be always seeking its own individual ends, and though it may seem at first that a certain line of policy is for us a very mountain of restricted liberty not to be suffered under any consideration, when we lay aside the "agen the gov'ment" microscope we find that after all the supposed mountain of restricted liberty is but a mole-hill of self-sacrifice, beyond which lies a sweeter, fuller and more harmonious liberty than we had dreamed of, and that the facts of the case which were also distorted by the microscope, have shrunk like the mountain to their actual size and significance, and we find to our shame, that we have made "much ado about nothing" and, after preparing the tribunal, have no case against the supposed delinquents. In short the case we thought we had, having melted into nothingness before public examination, like snow melts in the sunshine.

We, as a community, cannot expect to escape these dangers to our success. The microscope will be, indeed has been, held to our eye, and we have been inclined to pass hasty judgment, and take ill-considered action. Let us not forget that,

"Evil is wrought by want of thought
As well as want of heart."

Therein lies the cause of friction; it is want of thought that makes mischief; the hasty speech, the imputed motive, the false accusation, the distorted or misrepresented fact and the groundless suspicion.

We are a democratic society, engaged in a great movement. There is no want of heart to mar our work. We are sure of the soundness of that. Let us be careful that our work is not marred by want of thought.

The holding of a congress, if it means anything at all, means that the bodies represented realise that to achieve their true aim they must work in unison one with another, must be national not parochial; and this was the outstanding message of Bradford Co-operative Congress. There are those who regard conferences and congresses as so much money wasted, apparently because their benefits cannot be included in the asset side of the balance sheet. But the co-operative movement claims that modern business is soulless, and the soul, the ideal, the principle—whatever term you give it, can only be maintained by joint meeting and discussions, by local considerations being made subservient to national ones.

So much for the general principle which this Congress emphasised. One impression gained was that co-operators are undoubtedly strenuous. In a stuffy hot atmosphere the hall was uncomfortably packed throughout every sitting. The evening

meetings were well attended also, while at one hotel organised discussions were conducted each night, going on till 12, 1, and 2 a.m. At street corners, on the station, at the garden party, in fact one was continually coming across groups wearing the congress button, earnestly arguing, almost heatedly occasionally. Verily if "out of much discussion cometh truth," this congress has made a good stride in that direction.

The chairman's address is always looked forward to for a lead as to future work, rather than a retrospect, and Mr. Geo. Thorpe, of Dewsbury, certainly looked ahead. His tone was perhaps a little too sanguine, when he claimed that if it was right to apply co-operation to grocers, it was equally right in regard to railways, and every other activity of the nation. This brought the expression "rank heresy" from Maddison, but as both he and Thorpe are of the same political school, it is evidence of the growth of the belief of many in the orthodox parties, "that management by the people for the people" is the goal at which to aim.

The decision to expel Berwick Society was the first occasion on which the Union has had to use this means to show their disapproval of the movement for unco-operative methods. Berwick is a small society started a few years ago because the original society refused to open a branch. Then new blood came into the young society, and although the founders were well-meaning in their first efforts, their successors pursued a policy of open competition with the original society.

Taken as a whole, the congress was both business-like and inspiring. There was very little oratory, the speeches for the most part being the homely expressed opinions of workers rather than statesmanlike perorations. But they were none the less sincere and to the point.

Prof. M'Gregor's paper was worthy of every co-operator's study. It showed the impartial attitude and deep insight which characterize modern economists, and the truths which he propounded were a healthy antidote for egotism and self-sufficiency which a congress of these proportions is liable to engender in its constituents.

E. H.

Music.

What charms the name calls forth. Immediately music is spoken of, we are reminded of beautiful harmonies and entrancing melodies. The duration of any musical performance is not long and yet we are lifted into a higher plane of being after hearing one of the works from the Great Masters. Music seems to be the natural companion of the soul as well as the intellect. It appeals to something within us which is more than brain or understanding. When we hear the glorious harmonies of Handel's 'Messiah,' or the sweet melodies of Mendelssohn's 'Songs without Words,' we are, for the time, carried away from the worries and anxieties of earth, we see visions of a greater and higher life. Whilst listening to the performance of a great pianist, we have before us the visions of running

brooks, we listen to the wind in the trees; the scene changes and we hear the roar of the thunder, the patter of the rain; then the clouds break and the sun shines again, and the birds begin to sing, nature smiles, and everything is lovely. A performance does not last long and to all appearances when it is over it is no more, but if we could look into the hearts and minds of the hearers, we should see there its fruits. The fruits which music bear are not seen with the naked eye, they are too spiritual to be perceived except by the spirit. If simply to hear music will yield all this joy, what will the personal study and practice of music do for the individual. There is no art which is more inspiring than music none more beautiful, and none which so much repays the endeavour and appreciation of the student. In a certain way it seems as though there is a means of the expression of the soul through the art of music, either in song or instrument. However humble the student, however poor his results may seem, there is always some inspiration received from the study of this beautiful art. Of course it is always understood that a person must have a special gift in order to take up music as a profession, but there is much to be gained by the humble amateur student providing he is willing to make the sacrifice which is necessary. It is a mistake for people to think that because they are not specially gifted, that is to say, because they cannot become so successful as to play or sing in public, or even get a livelihood from the practice of music, to fold their hands and sink back and think this is a closed door to them, because it is not so. The truth of the great saying is nowhere felt more than here, that to him who knocks shall the door be opened, and to him who seeketh he shall find! Much more may be said on this very interesting topic, but space forbids. At some future time I will pursue the subject further. I only hope that I have succeeded in arousing more interest in this grand and delightful study.

BREVE.

REPORTS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The long light summer evening was probably responsible for the somewhat meagre attendance at the monthly meeting on the 15th of June, over which Mr. E. T. Groome presided. Mr. Wilford gave the monthly report in the course of which he stated that the building operations were at present proceeding rather slowly, this part of the estate being now nearly complete, and the next part will be taken in hand very shortly; the arrangements connected with the opening ceremony being dealt with later in the meeting. He also gave an interesting account of a visit to the Polytechnic Institute, London, in connection with the new scheme of technical instruction for workers on Co-partnership estates. Mr. Jackson gave report of Estate Council, stating that they had arranged the Whitsuntide Sports, and had made 67 members during the month, and they had repaired and renewed some of the cricket kit, and they asked for help and suggestions from the tenants. The rest

of the meeting was devoted to making arrangements for Demonstration on July 1st.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

The shortness of the Whit Holidays had recompense in the fulness of the pleasures of Bank Holiday Monday. The Estate Council had provided for that day more than enough of pastime for all. At some expense they had arranged a clown cricket match which proved that a number even of the more serious of our tenants can don the cap and bells in its various phases on occasion, with a large amount of success. Sports consisting of orange races for the children, ladies tug-of-war, ladies cricket match, married versus single, the ladies winning by 7 runs. A concert in the open closed a most enjoyable day.

CORONATION FESTIVITIES.

Friday, June 23rd, was reserved as a field-day for all the children of the parish. On the Society's invitation sent on an appropriate card, they all assembled in the village at 2 p.m., and marched to the big pasture, on entering which they received each a bag of sweets and a ticket for ice cream. There they should have partaken in a large programme of sports, but, unfortunately, here as elsewhere, rain compelled them to seek shelter indoors, and the chapel, through the kindness of those responsible, was thrown open for this purpose. Here the youngsters were treated to an impromptu concert which they thoroughly enjoyed until the signal for tea (which was arranged in the Institute) was given. Needless to say, full justice was done to the meal, and each child had the special delight of drinking out of a fine new Coronation mug, of which they were afterwards to become the owners. On leaving they were each presented with a bag of strawberries. The weather had now cleared up sufficiently to allow of some of the sports programme being carried out, and it was quite dusk when the prizes were distributed. Many thanks are due to all the subscribers to the fund which made this festival possible.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING.

The trip to Mablethorpe on Saturday, June 24th, was unfortunately somewhat marred by the unfavourable weather. As far as numbers were concerned it was a great success consisting of about 90 adults and children. Owing to force of circumstances we had to go by an earlier train, than originally arranged, but this did not discourage the children who left the Avenue just after 6 a.m., loudly cheering. On arrival at Mablethorpe an adjournment was made direct to the "Welcome" Cafe for lunch, where tea, which had been arranged for, was ready.

After lunch the weather cleared up and there was bright sunshine for nearly two hours, during which, the majority of the party both old and young, thoroughly enjoyed themselves by the sea, some paddling, and others building castles. Rain afterwards came on and although it continued without break, the youngsters were not at all disheartened but thoroughly enjoyed themselves the whole day. Home was reached about 10-30, the youngest being met at the station by a wagonette. W. MASON, Sec.

Items of Interest.

Many inquiries have been made as to who the sedate old lady was, who became so "nippy" during the progress of the "witty" cricket match—pardon! it should be Whitty. It was probably the village black-Smith.

And when John Willie's bucket of trinkets was upset, he himself was sadly upset also.

And evidently P.C. Tubby had missed his vocation for he did far more "running out" than "running in."

There is no doubt that the difficulty of choosing the best developed baby at the show was great, but then it is questionable as to whether the baby appreciated the honour, and whether the tears it shed when held up to view were of joy or sorrow.

It may interest our readers to know that our late fellow tenant, Mr. T. A. Smith is now on his way to New Zealand. He was detained in London for a day or two owing to the Seamen's strike in the country, but a letter was received from him on Wednesday last which had been posted at Plymouth, where the steamer calls to pick up its first-class passengers.

All honor to the youngsters who went to Mablethorpe, and remembered that they were the caretakers of the Estate Rockery, if their intentions were honest. Without interfering with the sand, several of them filled their pockets with Mablethorpe "rock of several colors," but unfortunately most of it had "melted" by the time Humberstone was reached.

Those concerned will appreciate the following:

Dear children and friends, I wish to thank you all for your kindness in presenting me with that splendid writing-desk. When I leave England I shall not forget to write to you on that desk. I am very sorry for some things that I am leaving the old country, yet I am pleased to leave for others, but I shall always, when writing a letter, remember my old friends and playmates.—From your friend and playmate,

HARRY SMITH.

Social Service Committee.

DON'T FORGET!

We exist to cater for

Household requirements,
and use our profits
for SOCIAL purposes.

AND OUR ABILITY TO DO THE LATTER
DEPENDS UPON YOUR LOYALTY. :: ::

Pending the opening of our Shops, state your requirements at the
Store "HOLYOAKE," KEYHAM LANE,
And we will do our best to meet them.

Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

Letters to the Editor need not be signed. Writer's name and address, on a separate slip, must accompany letters, but will not be published unless required. Will correspondents and others please write on one side of the paper only.

E.T.W.—The A.T.F. has not at present scope for such a communication as yours.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,—May I through the columns of the "A.T.F." express my thanks to all the members and residents of the Estate for their kindness to myself and family on our leaving for New Zealand. Personally I do not think that the small part I have taken in the work of the Estate was worthy of such generosity expressed both by the speakers and the very beautiful and useful presents given to us at the gathering in the Chapel on the night that will long be remembered by myself. What I have done is nothing at all when compared with the work and time given by many others in the building up of such a beautiful Estate; such a pleasant place I feel sure it will be, to live in, that my earnest hope is that the circumstances of all residents may improve so that they may enjoy it to the full. May I again tender my sincerest thanks to everyone who took part in thought or deed in the presentation and good wishes for our prosperity and happiness in our new life. And I can assure the residents that my thoughts will often be with them and the "Anchor Estate, Humberstone,"

Sincerely yours, T. A. SMITH.

"THE CORRINATION."

Mister Editor,—When owd Bill axed may if I war gooing to the Corrinaton do, I towd him I didn't think it wuth while, as I'd heerd as how some on'em, thim folk wi' weak stumacks I reckon, were ony gooing to hev a tea. But when hey towd may there war gooing be a good lunch as well I sed I'd go, and very glad I war as I went, for it war a regler slap-up affair, plenty o' beef and mutton and good stuff too. Yer no Mister Editor, I've fed and foddered menny a baste and ship in my time, but when it come to eatin' 'em, aint allus hed a plateful to goo at. But we did that day I can assure yer. Arter the lunch there war a band, and some sports for the young 'uns, and some what-do-yer-callems dressed up and singing. But I could not gi much account o' them for I hed a very comfortable feelin' all the arternoon and did not bother about owt else. Then there war a tea for the wimmin and them as didn't come to the lunch and I hope they enjoyed their do as much as we did. Arter tea they axed may to run in some o' the races but I hed to cry off, for it war gettin' late in the day afore I could fasten may buttons. But what made may write to yo' Mister Editor, I thawt we ort to thank them as gen the money and them as did the wuk, and I thawt yore paper war the best way o' doin' it, and the next

time our member of parlyment comes to address his constituents, (I think thats what you call 'em) I shall ax him if he can't get a bill passed to mek a Jubilee or a Corrinaton about every other year.

OLE HUMMERSTON.

Gardening Notes.

The recent rain has evidently made our gardens feel that they have not been left out of the Coronation festivities, and they will, by now, be showing their beauty to perfection. This should remind us that all old blooms and seed pods must be cut off as they appear, if we wish the plants to keep blooming. Then there is the general tying up and staking, which must be attended to or the wind may play sad havoc with our plants and ruin many of them.

Use weak liquid manure twice a week, it will give renewed colour to foliage and blooms. This may be made as follows:—take 1 peck of fowl or any other good manure and soot, put together into a coarse bag with a brick tied to it, then sink all into a tub of soft water. Let it stand for three days, then stir well and use one part to two of water. This will be found very cheap and effective.

Spring Cabbage and Tripilo Onions may be sown the last week in this month, also All-the-year-round Lettuce for spring use.

Plant out Celery into permanent quarters.

If fine specimen blooms are desired off Roses, Carnations, Chrysanthemums, etc., disbudding must be taken in hand at once.

Summer pruning of fruit trees should be attended to at once, pinching back the side shoots to the third leaf from the base. The leading shoots should be left till the sap has gone down in the autumn.

T. R.

ZEPHYR.

Hiss through the barley fields; moan through the pines,

Laugh where the poplar shakes its tittering leaves;
Weep where the sorrow-laden willow grieves;
Strike the soft harp of roadside marching lines;
Tease the stiff yews; ruffle their barbered signs;
Play with the tassels on the larches' sleeves;
Swing where the oak, an anchored galleon, heaves;
Stir on the walls the crimson-clambering vines.

Wander through squalid courts and grimy ways,
Where belching chimneys stain a palid sky,
And echoing rivets clang with hideous din,
And dusty whirlwinds at the corners spin.

Grope through the stifling city's wildering haze,
Thalassa sleeping find; kiss her; then die.

AP ADAM.

(In the Daily News.)