

THE CO-OPERATIVE WAY

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"Cooperation is a voluntary act, and all the powers in the world cannot make it compulsory; nor is it desirable that it should depend on any power but its own."—Dr. William King in THE COOPERATOR about 1830.

While experiments in cooperation and cooperative organizations date back to the activities of savage tribes all over the world, the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in England was the beginning of the standardized cooperative movement as we know it today.

Before the organization of this society the condition of the weavers of Rochdale was pathetic. England was in the throes of industrial revolution and there seemed to be no hope for these people but to accept wages which would hardly buy their bread, and after a life of toil to end their days in the poor house.

Most progressive movements are born of adversity. When something has to be done to preserve life itself men will act together for protection, war, revolution or to establish a new social order as happened in this country in Revolutionary days. The situation in Rochdale was ripe for revolution of the most violent sort. However these men saw another way out.

They had been exploited by industry and by traders—they would themselves become industrialists, traders and even capitalists by group action. They would form a society which would eventually own and operate banks, stores and mills. This group by united action would take over the functions of the captains of industry.

Overambitious? Perhaps, but they made a start and in the process

blundered onto principals of successful cooperation which have proved a guide for successful cooperative societies ever since.

Their first step was taken only in an effort to make their wages go farther and to give them capital with which to proceed with their industrial ventures. They would pool their money and cooperatively buy the supplies they needed for their own home, and save for themselves the merchants profit.

After more than a year of saving, twenty eight of them had accumulated a sum of 28 pounds or a little over \$10.00 and the experiment was started. In 1844 they opened a small store in an old warehouse with a stock of oatmeal flour butter and sugar. They bought their supplies from their own organization and at first left the savings in to provide more capital.

Times continued to be hard but the founders were loyal, they walked long distances to trade with their organization and by the end of the year had a membership of seventy-four and had done a total business of approximately \$3500.00. In 1934 the society had 44,000 members, a capital of \$2,755,340.00 and did a business of \$3,192,220.00. From the founding to 1934 the surplus savings distributed to members on a patronage basis amounted to nearly \$2,000,000.00. Their success was encourag-

ing to other struggling people and they became a center from which cooperative thought and education went out to the whole world.

Conditions began to improve for the weavers and they even began to enjoy some few luxuries. They were better clothed and it is even said that they looked better. They did not accomplish all their aims within their own society but they started a great movement. Some statistics of the Cooperative Wholesale Society of Great Britain will illustrate something of their success.

This Cooperative Wholesale Society has palm olive estates in Africa. It owns its own steamship lines. It has purchasing offices in the large commercial centers in all parts of the world. It is the largest single purchaser of Canadian wheat in the world. Its flour mills are the largest in Britain. It has 139 factories and productive industries which produce nearly a hundred articles which run through the alphabet from automobiles to yeast. In addition to these it owns 34,000 acres of farm land in England and tea plantations in Ceylon and India. It has the largest tea business in the world, the largest shoe manufacturing business in Great Britain and are the second largest producers of soap in the Empire.

The Rochdale Pioneers built better than they knew.

LOWER MARTIN'S CREEK

Old Mother Goose paid us a visit Saturday and left plenty of snow.

Those that have been on the sick list the past week are: Frances, the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Carringer; John, the little son of Mrs. Bell Henry and Harley, the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Styles were the guest of Miss Maude Carringer Sunday.

Mrs. Pearl Phillips was the dinner guest of Miss Maude Carringer one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Gibson spent most of last week with the former's mother, Mrs. Bell Henry.

The little infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cunningham who was three weeks old died Sunday at 11 o'clock. It is survived by its parents and one brother and one sister, Dale and Olive Margaret.

Mr. Alfred Gibson of Gastonia is spending the Xmas holidays with his father Mr. Leach Gibson.

WOLF CREEK

Christmas passed very quietly in our community. There were a few social gatherings to break the monotony. Miss Pauline Burgess just from school at Graysville, Tenn., with her brother, Wayne, and two of her school mates: Miss Geraldine Thomas of Okeechobee, Fla. and Miss Mary Hook from Columbus, Ga., gave a party to a few invited guests, after several games, which all seemed to enjoy, a curtain was drawn back and there was Santa Claus in the person of Charles Morgan all rigged out in furs etc., and a well loaded Christmas tree with gifts for all.

Miss Doris Cone, teacher of the Seventh Day Adventist Church school here returned from spending the holidays with her parents in Boston, Ga., Sunday noon and took up her work anew Monday morning.

Miss Ruth Davis and her, brother, Ralph, who are attending the Mountain school at Fletcher, N. C., reached home late Wednesday evening to spend the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Garren left here late Wednesday evening with Prof. and Mrs. Roy Jorgenson with their three children and Mrs. A. T. Twombly and baby, Tommie all of Fletcher, N. C., to spend the holidays with the three women's parents in Gainesville, Fla.

Mrs. Carl Sunonds who has been seriously sick for several weeks died

early Sunday morning. She leaves to mourn besides her husband, six children, 4 boys, Howard, at Ft. Enning, Ga., C. J., Kenneth and two girls, Frances and Jean. They range in age from 5 years to 18 years of age. She was laid to rest Monday afternoon in Macedonia Baptist cemetery. Dickey, Anderson, Chastain of Copperhill, were in charge of the funeral.

Mr. Major Stuart who was reared in an adjoining community, in the edge of Georgia and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Stuart, was instantly killed in an accident while working at his father-in-law's grist mill near Copperhill, Saturday. He was caught in a belt while crushing some feed corn. Abernathy and Sons were in charge of the funeral. He was buried in the Salem Baptist church cemetery Monday. The Rev. Jesse Ballew conducted the religious exercises.

A very Happy and Prosperous New Year for the entire Scout family, from the editor in chief to the most humble reader, is the wish of your humble correspondent.

A New York City ordinance prohibits taking news papers into parks for the purpose of sitting on them.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS



New Year's Day is only twenty-four hours long but our best wishes go with you all of 1937.

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