

# St. Dennis Co-op

A Branch of St. Columb Road Co-operative Wholesale Society by John Pearn

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A Branch of  
St. Columb Road  
Co-operative Wholesale Society



by  
**John Pearn**

And

A St. Columb Road  
Co-operative Wholesale Society Publication

**A Short  
History Of The Society  
and  
The One Hundredth  
Report & Balance Sheet**

**September 1953**

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**St.Dennis Co-op**  
**(Wellington Road)**  
**A Branch of St.Columb Road**  
**Co-operative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.)**

By

John Pearn

January 2023

**Foreword**

During the school holidays in 1951 – 1953 I was fortunate to work on the bakery rounds of St.Columb Road Co-operative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.) to earn some money while attending Newquay Grammar School for Boys. My interest in the Co-op developed as some of our family worked there. My grandfather served on the Co-op Committee for a time, while an aunty lived in the Co-op house next to the main shop with her husband, a delivery man and later he took orders from a wide area.

My wife Margaret also knew people who worked in the St.Dennis shop, while some St.Dennis people worked at St.Columb Road. Hence an interest in the branch and main store.

**Background of the St.Columb Road Co-operative  
Wholesale Society and why at St.Columb Road  
How the branches grew up**

It all began when St.Columb Market Town refused to have the Par to Newquay Branch Line running through or close to the small town.

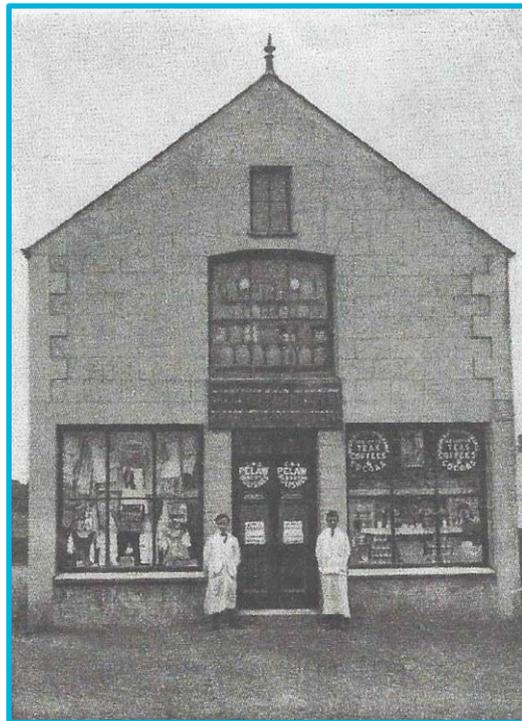
The railway was built near Indian Queens and ran through the small hamlet built outside of Indian Queens. The line was 2.5 miles from St.Columb and eventually the hostelry at Indian Queens was transferred to the Queen and Railway Inn built in the hamlet. The railway men led by Mr.Kent, the station master, met in the Queen and Railway Inn and decided to set up a Co-op. Just 7 to 8 men with an auditor, Mr.Prynne.

Next there was a meeting at the Immanuel Sunday School, Indian Queens. It was well attended. At St.Columb Road Station there was a coal yard and close by a brick yard and they were in the possession of the Society in 1903. At the meeting it was passed to form a Co-operative Wholesale Society (C.W.S.) and approximately 100 members joined. There was some opposition from a few local tradesmen. The first meeting was held in the barn of Little Carworgie Farm at Indian Queens belonging to Mr.T.Crowle. St.Columb Road was chosen as the site of the Co-op and the first building was a temporary structure made of wood and galvanise. It was 20 feet by 10 feet and divided in half. One half was for groceries and provisions and the other half for corn stuffs. It was known as the "Tin Tabernacle" as a joke ! Most supplies came from the Co-operative Wholesale Society.



The original St.Columb Road Shop  
(The Tabernacle)

A more permanent building replaced the former building and it was built of concrete. The measurements were approximately 40 feet x 20 feet but two storey. This building eventually became the bakery. Women, carrying baskets, did the shopping, while men rode bicycles and carried heavier goods. How did they reach the store ? They often walked and some came 2 miles for their supplies !



The first permanent St.Columb Road shop

In 1907 Mr. Joe Bullock was engaged to deliver goods to members at 9<sup>1/2</sup>d. per hour (pre decimal). He lost his first wife and married a sister to my grandmother. In 1910 the Society took over a field at Fraddon Hill under a lease of 92 years, from Mr.J.Bullock, for the purpose of opening a butchery business. A slaughterhouse was erected and they entered the business in January 1911. Mr.A.W.Best of St.Dennis was the first butcher. This business was continued until 1917. Difficulties arose in the 1914 to 1918 war and the lease with Mr.J.Bullock was cancelled.

Membership increased and urgent requests came from St.Dennis as increasing trade was done in that area. In 1914 a public meeting was held to consider a branch. There was a large attendance and Mr.Prynne, headmaster of Darite School near Liskeard, auditor of St.Columb Road C.W.S., addressed the meeting. £335 was subscribed. The site in Wellington Road was

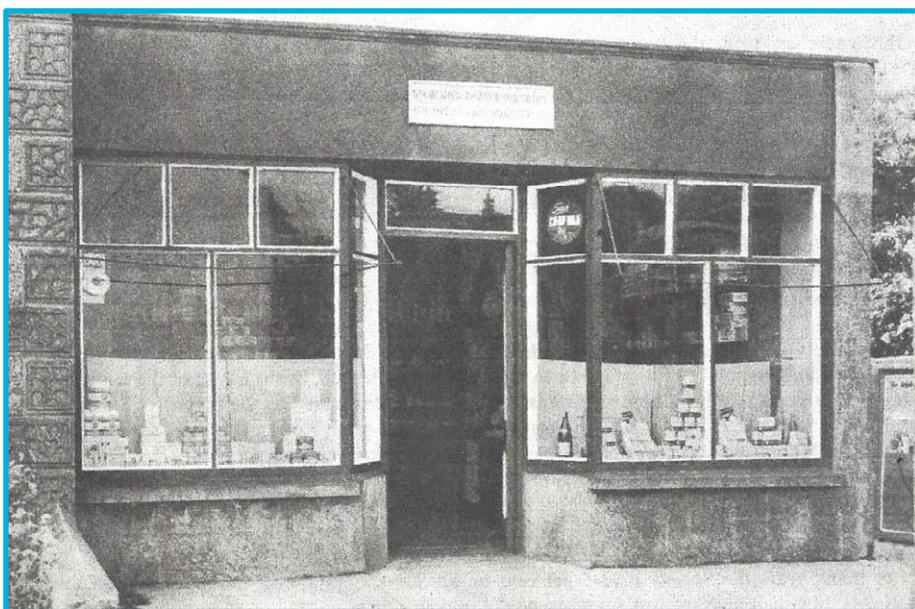
purchased and contracts signed. The masonry labour contract was £39-10s and the carpentry contract including timber was £105-10s. The branch opened in 1915.

In 1910 on Mondays the travelling shop under Mr.J.Bullock used to cover Trevarren, Black Cross, Ruthvoes, Toldish, Goss Moor, Tregoss to Enniscaven, the lower part of St.Dennis, Egypt, Trerice and home. He worked 12 hours and the takings would be about £30. The travelling shop left St.Columb Road with 25 gallons of paraffin, 1 hundred weight (cwt) of sugar, 1 hundred weight of lard and the usual groceries. Orders were placed for provender (dry food for livestock), other goods as well as drapery and these would be delivered by Mr. W.Skinner.

The business grew and further branches were established in villages – i.e. Trevarren, St.Columb town, Treviscoe, Summercourt, Grampound Road and Padstow.



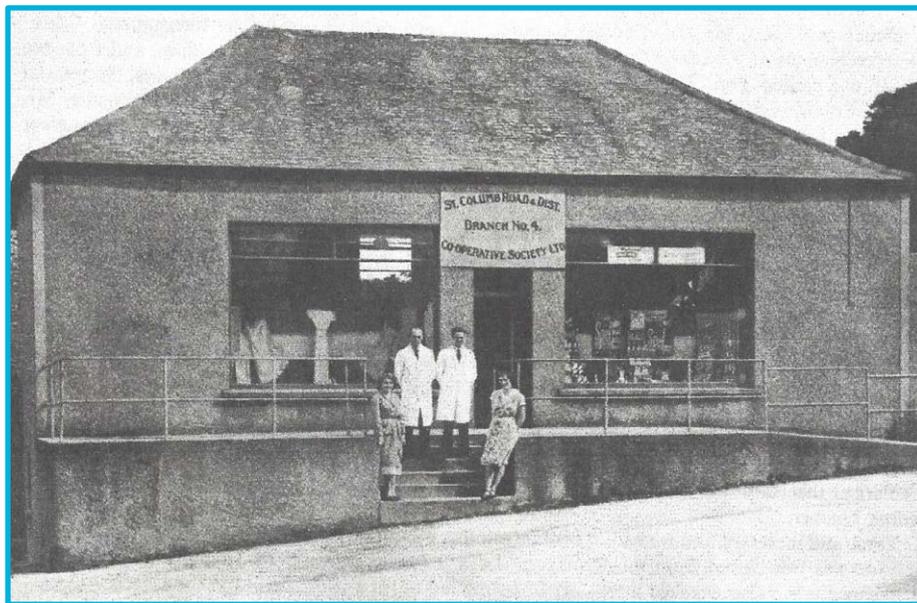
St.Dennis Branch



Trevarren Branch



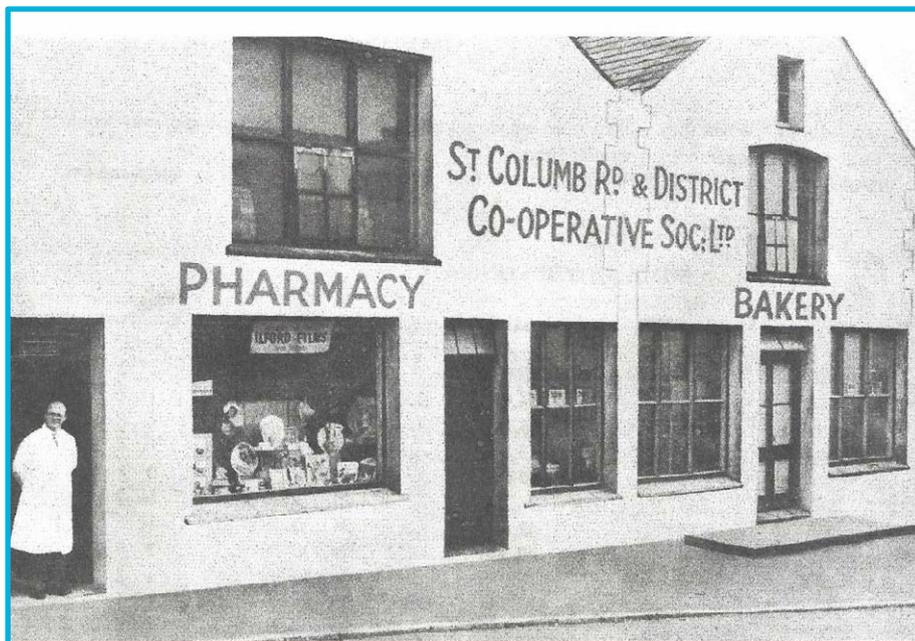
St.Columb Road Central Shop



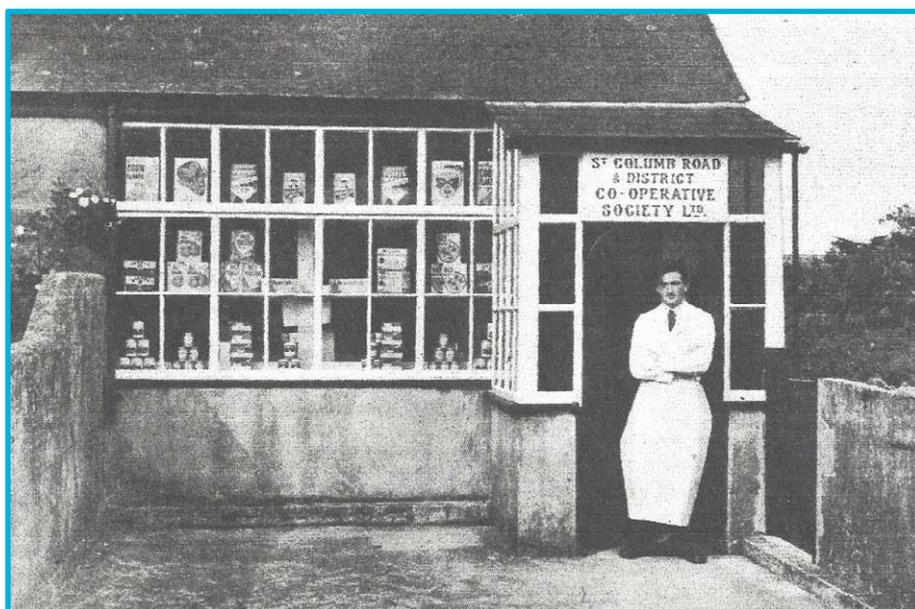
Grampound Road Branch



Treviscoe Branch



St.Columb Road Pharmacy and Bakery



Summercourt Branch



St.Columb Major Branch



Padstow Branch

### People I knew

Mr. W. Skinner, Capt. M. Richards, Mr.A. Bennett, Mr. Williams (St.Columb Road Secretary – Manager), Mr.Nail (President), Mr.Baglow, Messrs. R.J.Grigg, E.J.Richard and W.T.Pinch.

Department Heads – Messrs. L.Solomon, W.G.Arthur, A.Whittaker, A.R.Bennett, S.K.Osborne, W.D.Lawry and S.H.Wilcox.

Also Mr.J.Andrew (Delivery), Mr.J.Landry (Bakery), Mr.A.W.Hider, Mr.Roy Nail, Miss M.Brenton (Bread Rounds), Mr.Brenton (Stores) and many others serving in the offices and behind the counters. Too many to name and I might leave some out !

My Aunty and A.W.Hider lived in the Co-op house next to the main Co-op in St.Columb Road. It has now been knocked down and houses built between the old Co-op and the Pharmacy/ Bakery building. The present Co-op is built between the old building and the corner, when going from the crossroads at St.Columb Road towards Indian Queens.

### Changes Known to Me 1939 - 1971

Liptons and Home & Colonial were the first large stores in towns. Villages had small shops and Co-operative stores. Later there were large stores where one helped oneself off the shelves and queued to pay at the pay desk before leaving the store. Such stores are common in the larger centres of population i.e. Asda, Tesco, Sainsburys, Morrisons, B & M, Iceland, Waitrose, Aldi and Lidl. Somerfields is now defunct but the Co-op can still be found in large towns.

Padstow as a branch, had the first self serve while I believe St.Columb Road Co-op is self service but all bakery rounds have finished as well as milk rounds. As a result, little thieving took place as the produce was secure in the store and not left unattended on delivery vehicles. A description of service in store follows which gave thieves little opportunity to steal things apart from the occasional bottle of milk.

### The Method of Serving a Customer at the Co-op in Days Gone By

A customer would be served by a grocery assistant if this was required. As you entered the shop you would be standing in front of a large table like structure and the shelves would have the groceries behind the assistant. General groceries would have a place on the shelf. If bacon was required it would have to be sliced by a large machine further away to which the assistant would go. Once the order was complete the assistant packed it in a large brown paper bag. The assistant took your money and inserted it in a cup with a cap along with a ticket, upon which was written your Co-op dividend number and the cost of the goods. The cup was then attached to an overhead wire. A lever would be pulled and the cup would travel along the overhead wire to the office. Here the office staff

recorded your sale and placed any change in the cup which travelled back along the wire to the assistant. The cup was unscrewed by the assistant and the change taken out and given to the customer. At some point during the year customers received their Co-op dividend. The same system was employed in the drapery department. It was a very efficient method and typical of larger stores of the Co-operative Society.

### The Bakery Round

All rounds worked using the same method. The van had to be loaded with bread (sliced and whole), cakes (saffron and yeast), splits, fancies, sandwich with cream, jam in a sponge and sweet cakes. A book would tell you how many of each variety you had. Again a ticket would have to be made out by the salesman and given to the customer once a purchase had been made. The total would be recorded in duplicate by inserting blue carbon paper in between two pages. One for the customer and one for the office.

Bread etc. had to be taken from the bakery over a cinder yard to the van. Unpleasant in wet conditions. Also serving a customer at the door from a basket was unpleasant in rainy conditions. Health and safety did not exist as the roundsman handled the bread/fancies, entered the number on the ticket, tore out the ticket, took money and placed it in the leather bag provided. There being nothing on the van to wash your hands, only a cover to go over the basket to keep rain off the goods. I remember my grandmother's Co-op dividend number 72 and my mother's was 1312. From these numbers you can see how things grew over the years.

Each van had a book and in it was written how many loaves you had and each item had a number. No doubt this helped Mr.Solomon to estimate what each round required in its daily rounds, saving any large amount of waste. Marble cake was made with various coloured fancies and iced. Mr.Solomon, a St.Columb Road boy, married a St.Dennis girl and lived opposite the St.Dennis all age school. His wife was a sister to Inez Kent, deputy head of St.Dennis all age school and his brother was a Methodist minister. Mr.Solomon won numerous bakery prizes whilst in charge of the bakery department from 1939. The value of bakery products in 1939 was £90 a week. In two years it was £300 a week. In the Co-operative movement he won 20 prizes including some "firsts". In the "Open to All" he won 40 prizes including a "One Hundred Guinea Challenge Cup" and a high award at an Olympic exhibition. In 1952 the output reached £630.

### Trading Account for the One Hundreth Report and Balance Sheet - September 1953

(s. = Shillings d. = Pence)

Central	£43,831 – 3s. – 9d.
Bakery *	£11,515 – 12s. – 4d.
St.Dennis *	£23,905 – 19s. – 1d.
Treviscoe *	£11,312 – 12s. – 1d.
St.Columb	£11,830 – 2s. – 6d.
Grampound Road *	£6,368 – 12s. – 7d.
Padstow *	£10,970 – 14s. – 8d.
Trevarren *	£2,941 – 16s. 2d.
Summercourt *	£830 – 3s. 0d.

\*All now closed

People would travel to shop at bigger stores with maybe a bigger choice.

This was an interesting article to prepare, having had relations involved with the Co-operative movement and working on the bakery rounds from 1951 to 1953.

# St.Dennis Co-op

A Branch of  
St.Columb Road  
Co-operative Wholesale Society



by  
**John Pearn**

**ST.COLUMB ROAD  
AND  
DISTRICT**



**CO-OPERATIVE  
SOCIETY  
LTD.**

**A SHORT  
HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY  
*AND*  
THE ONE HUNDREDTH  
REPORT & BALANCE SHEET**

***SEPTEMBER  
1953***

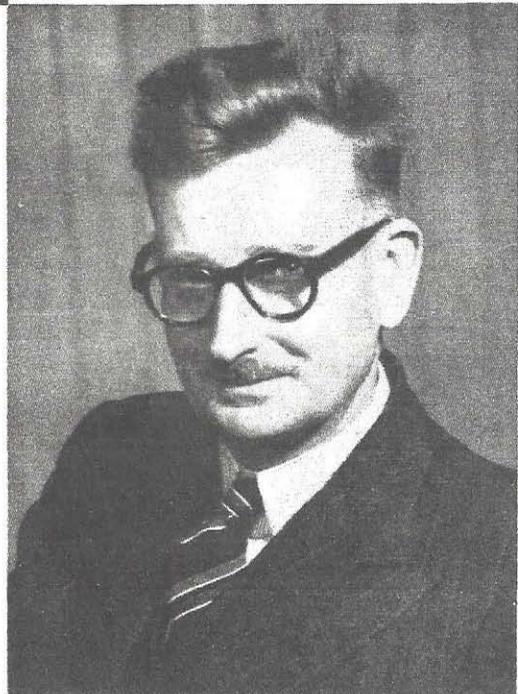
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The Co-operative Group Limited  
Manchester



# **FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE**



MR. W. J. T. NAIL  
*(President)*



MR. E. T. WILLIAMS  
*(Managing Secretary)*

## EARLY HISTORY



ORIGINAL STORE

The village of St. Columb Road takes its name from the railway station of that name. When the Par-Newquay branch line was in the making it was mapped out so that the line should be near the market town of St. Columb, but owing to opposition from the townspeople, who considered it would be to their disadvantage, the line took a different route and the nearest station was two-and-a-half miles distant and was named St. Columb Road.

At that time there were only five or six houses nearby but new houses soon appeared, also a Brick Works, a Coal and Timber Yard, now in the possession of the Society, and an Inn, the licence of which was transferred from the old Inn and Hostelry, Indian Queens.

This old inn, which dates back to the old coaching days, gave its name to the village built around it. When the licence was transferred and the inn ceased to exist as an inn the name stuck to the village, which has been the social centre of the district. Although St.Columb Road is more prominent, in this early history, in being incorporated in the name of the Society, the village of Indian Queens played a very important and vital part in the opening and early growth of the Society.

The first step towards the opening of the St.Columb Road Co-operative Society was taken by a group of railway workers employed at the railway station. One of them, a Mr. Daniel Kent, wrote the first letter written on the subject and which was addressed to Mr. R. R. Prynne (the Society's present Auditor) in which was expressed the view that the district was a suitable one in which to open a Co-operative Society. This took place early in 1903. Mr. Prynne, at that time, was a schoolmaster at Darite, near Liskeard. He was also the Secretary of the Cornwall Co-operative Association, which had been carrying out considerable propaganda work in the County and was largely instrumental in opening a number of Co-operative Societies.

Mr. Prynne replied to this first letter arranging to meet the writer and others interested and this took place at the Queen and Railway Inn, St. Columb Road. There were seven or eight present and it was then decided to hold a public meeting to consider the question and which, eventually, was held in the Methodist (Immanuel) Schoolroom, Indian Queens. The aforementioned Daniel Kent was the Chairman and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Prynne and a Mr. Vaughan, of Plymouth.



### FIRST PERMANENT SHOP

Representatives from Plymouth of the Private Traders' Association attended, also a few local private traders. The schoolroom was filled to capacity and great interest in the subject was evident.

Although there was some opposition from the private trading interests, a resolution favouring the opening of a Co-operative Society in the district was enthusiastically carried.

Events progressed, a membership list was opened and the Society was duly formed and registered, the number of members being about one hundred.

The first meeting of this newly registered Society was held in the barn of Little Carworgie Farm, Queens, then in the occupation of Mr. Tom Crowle. The barn was decorated for the occasion with evergreens and flowers. Mr. Prynne attended to advise on the subsequent steps to take, and the Society had an encouraging send-off.

The village of St.Columb Road was chosen as being the best site for the erection of shop and stores, and a plot of land was purchased, the size of which was determined by the decision to first of all erect a temporary structure, and to have alongside sufficient space for a permanent building as and when the growth of trade required it.

This first temporary structure was built of wood and galvanised iron, was 20 feet by 10 feet, and divided in the centre, one half for groceries and provisions, the other for corn stuffs, This building became known amongst Cornish co-operators as the "Tin Tabernacle" and was the butt of many jokes.

The Society became a member of the great Co-operative Wholesale Society, from where it was proposed to draw most of its supplies.

The "Tin Tabernacle:" served for about a year when, as trade was increasing, it was decided to proceed with the erection of a permanent building. This was built of concrete and was 40 feet by 20 feet and consisted of two floors, and which is now in use by the Society's Bakery Department. This 40 by 20 foot building was considered much too big by one or two of the pioneers, who said it would never "be filled."

For a considerable period all goods had to be fetched from the stores as there were no arrangements made regarding delivery. "The Woman with the Basket" was a feature of local co-operative shopping during those early days, also the husband with his "bike" for the more bulky corn stuffs. Members made light of their walk, in some cases up to two miles, to and from their stores with the weekly supplies.

### FIRST OFFICIALS

The first President was Mr. Frank Tamblyn, of St. Columb Road. He took great interest and a leading part in the Society from the start and did much voluntary work. He held the presidency for eight years.

Other Presidents were : Mr. Jethro Bray to 1914, Mr. W. Davis to 1915, Mr. John Bettison to 1917, Captain M. Richards to 1935, Mr. A. Bennett, J.P., from 1935 to 1951.

Special mention must be made of Captain M. Richards and Mr. A. Bennett, who filled the office for very long periods, and both gave excellent service to the Society.

The first Treasurer was Mr. W. Nancarrow. In those days the bank at St. Columb, through which the Society did business, had a branch at Fraddon and each week the bank manager would call at Mr. Nancarrow's house on his way to Fraddon and collect the week's cash.

The week's cash was taken to Mr. Nancarrow on Thursday evenings to await collection on Friday mornings and Mr. Nancarrow used to sleep on Thursday nights with the cash under his pillow.

The first Secretary was Mr. R. Richards, who lived at Stamps, Gaverigan. He resigned after holding the office for 18 months.

No manager was appointed at the start but a lad, Arthur Richards, of Fraddon, was engaged as a salesman and was supervised by his father, Mr. S. Richards, who had had some shopkeeping experience.

Membership numbered about 120, Share Capital £100; there was also a small loan. Stock at the end of the first balancing period (19 weeks) was valued at £98, sales for the 19 weeks were £489 and the first surplus was £26.

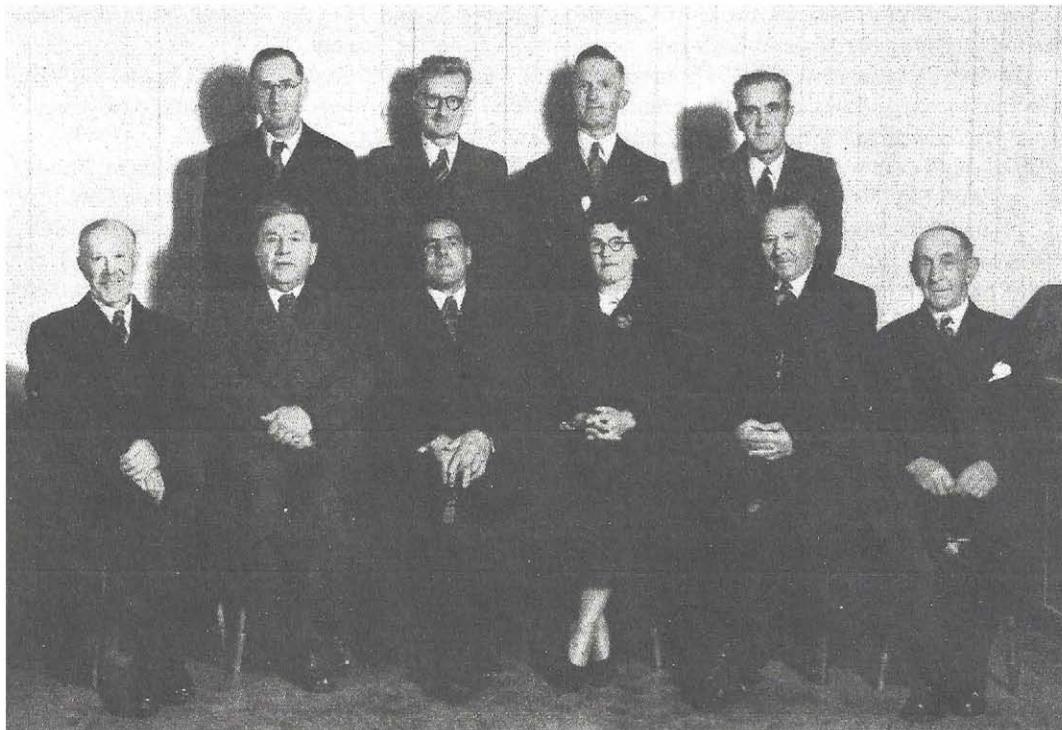
The total expenses for the 19 weeks were £23. 11s. 4½d. The first dividend was at the rate of 1s. 2d. in the £ and amounted to £20. 7s. 6d. It will be noted how small and unpretentious were the Society's beginnings.

As stated, Mr. R. Richards resigned the Secretaryship after 18 months. Mr. T. E. Bray was appointed and eventually, including about four years' war service, held the position for 41 years. Mr. Bray had had no previous clerical experience but, under the guidance of the auditor, he soon picked up the threads and, with accumulative experience, became an efficient secretary. His salary

#### FIRST EXTENSION



## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1953



*Left to right, standing :* Messrs. F. C. Truscott, E. T. Williams (Managing-Secretary), C. E. Baglow, R. J. Grigg.  
*Left to right, sitting :* Messrs. J. C. Kent, W. P. Meagor, W. J. T. Nail (President), Mrs. A. M. Job, Messrs. E. J. Rickard, W. T. Pinch.

to commence was £2 per year. It was increased in stages : 1906, £4 ; 1908, £8 ; 1910, £12, &c., and his duties included the tabulating of the dividend checks, which by itself, was no small job.

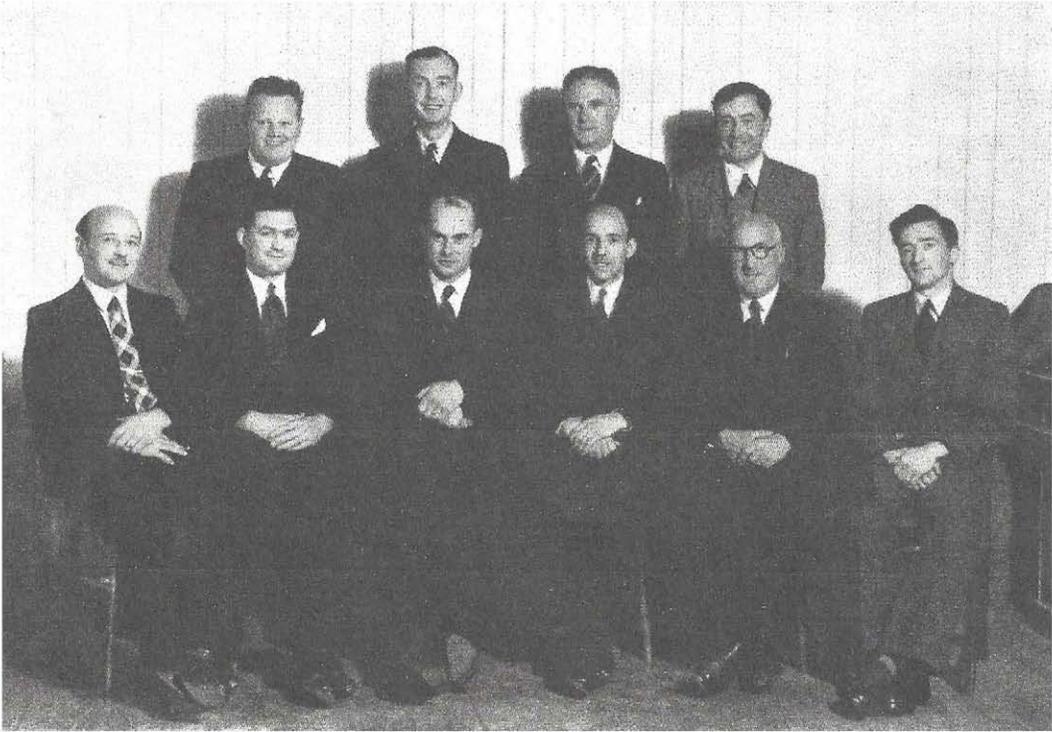
Mr. R. R. Prynne, the Society's auditor has, with the exception of five years (1916—1921), held the position for the whole of the Society's existence. Mr. Prynne, in the early years, gave the Society much valuable advice and, during those early years, to carry out the audit, he would travel from Darite after school hours to St. Columb Road, go through the books and accounts, spend the night at St. Columb Road, returning to Darite the next morning, often meeting an early train at Grampound Road to enable him to get back to open his school. His fee was one guinea and nothing extra for expenses. It will be seen that Mr. Prynne's services extend to half a century, which very probably is a record.

The first salesman, Arthur Richards, resigned after 12 months' service and the first General Manager was



MR. R. R. PRYNNE

## BRANCH MANAGERS AND DEPARTMENTAL HEADS



*Left to right, standing :* Messrs. L. J. Solomon, W. G. Arthur, A. Whittaker, D. P. Taylor.  
*Left to right, sitting :* Messrs. L. R. Bennett, S. K. Osborne, T. S. W. Varcoe, W. D. R. Lawry, S. H. Willcox, F. R. Stoneman.

appointed. He was Mr. Sidney Smith, of Delabole, and twice a week, on the Friday half-day and after closing shop on Saturday, would push-bike to Delabole to do some courting. For about three years Mr. Smith was manager, counterman and cleaner-up all in one, in fact the only employee. He worked hard and trade increased. The writer remembers how elated Mr. Smith was when, in one week, the sales reached £60 for the first time. He was delighted, it was a great event.

In 1907 Mr. Joe Bullock was engaged with his horse and cart to deliver goods to members at the total cost of 9½d. per hour. On February 22nd, 1908, the Society's first apprentice was engaged. He was Gordon Nancarrow and the terms were : to serve four years, at 3s. per week for the first year, and 5s., 7s. 6d., and 10s. per week for the following years respectively. Also the first full-time drapery assistant whose terms of employment were : £15 per year plus 2d. in the £ commission. Approximately at this time, too, a half of the original store was let as a cobbler's shop at 5s. per calendar month.

In 1908 a part-time drapery assistant was engaged. In 1908, too, Mr. Smith resigned the manager-ship and a Mr. S. Rogers, a native of Calstock, came to the Society as Manager from the Bromley Co-operative Society at a weekly wage of 25s. In addition to this the only wages paid were : Drapery Assistant, 9s. ; Grocery Apprentice, 3s. ; Deliveryman with horse and cart, approximately, 10s.

In August, 1910, the Society took over a field at Fraddon Hill, under a 92 years' lease, from Mr. Joseph Bullock, for the purpose of opening a butchery department. A slaughterhouse and other necessary buildings were erected and the Society entered the butchery business on January 2nd, 1911. A Mr. W. A. Best, of St. Dennis, was the first butcher.



WELLINGTON ROAD, ST. DENNIS BRANCH

This department was carried on fairly satisfactorily, but with varying results, until 1917, when owing to special difficulties arising and attributable to the war the department was closed. Eventually an agreement was arrived at with Mr. Bullock under which the lease was cancelled.

The China Clay Strike took place in 1913 and the Society subscribed to the Strike Relief Fund. The strike lasted three months and there were a number of cases of distress.

The lighting problem. For some years the only method of lighting the Society's premises was by oil lamps, which from many points of view was very unsatisfactory.

In October, 1913, a Mr. F. Wise, an acetylene expert from Plymouth, installed an acetylene plant at the central premises at a cost of £45. This plant, which supplied 31 burners, gave general satisfaction until it was scrapped in favour of electricity, which had become available.

Membership increased and applications came from further afield. Urgent requests came from St. Dennis and an increasing trade was done in that district. In 1914 a Public Meeting was held at St. Dennis to consider the question of opening a Branch in the village, and there was a large attendance. Mr. Prynne, our auditor, addressed the meeting. A resolution was passed asking the committee to take the necessary steps towards the opening of a Branch. Some months later a meeting of members of the St. Dennis district was held at which they were invited to add to their Share Capital and thus provide the funds required for the erection of the Branch. The sum of £335 was subscribed, which proved how anxious they were to have a Branch of their own. The site in Wellington Road was purchased and contracts signed. The masonry contract (labour only) was for £39. 10s., the Carpentry Contract, including timber, &c., was £105. 10s., and the Branch was opened for business in 1915.

The first Branch Manager was the Society's first grocery apprentice, Mr. G. Nancarrow, who as stated below later joined H.M. Forces.

In 1914 Mr. W. Skinner was engaged as deliveryman. He retired in 1946, after serving the

Society faithfully and well for 32 years. This year, too, saw the beginning of the war and the Society was soon affected by two grocery staff joining the forces, viz. G. Nancarrow and H. Stoneman. It is with much regret we relate that G. Nancarrow lost the sight of both eyes through the explosion of an enemy shell. He is at present living at Newquay.

In July, 1915, the Secretary, Mr. T. E. Bray, and the Storeman, Mr. Russell Bray, enlisted in the services.

Mr. S. Rogers, the General Manager, took over the secretarial duties, but eventually found the two jobs too much for him, and a Mr. W. Liddicoat, a school teacher, was appointed as Financial Secretary and Mr. F. Brenton as Minute Secretary. This arrangement did not prove entirely satisfactory and Mr. Brenton was appointed to take over the financial duties also, which he held until Mr. Bray was re-elected upon demobilisation from the services.

June, 1914, saw the adoption of the Collective Life Assurance Scheme under which benefits are paid to the next-of-kin of deceased members.

Committee fees were first paid in 1915, when 6d. per meeting was granted. For 12 years members of the committee had been meeting weekly without any kind of payment.

Mr. Rogers resigned the managership in 1917, and his successor was Mr. F. Wakeham, who came from Sharpness, Gloucestershire, and who remained with the Society until his retirement in 1934. He was succeeded by our present Manager, Mr. E. T. Williams, who came from Shepton Mallet.

We think it speaks well for the Society and the Committee of Management that during the 50 years there have been only four Managers.

In 1916 negotiations took place between Roche Society and our Society with the object of amalgamating the two, but they were not successful. The same question was again considered in September, 1932, but with the same result.

#### TREVARREN BRANCH





CENTRAL PREMISES

In September, 1918, the Society installed a corn crushing and grinding plant. An oil engine cost £100 and a mill £39. Grain was purchased from local farmers and ground into pig-meal, &c., and a considerable business was done. The second world war restricted the purchasing of grain corn and, later, the mill was disposed of.

The year 1922 saw the opening of the well-built and commodious central premises. Mr. E. J. Luke, Treviscoe, secured the contract for the erection of the building and the Plymouth Co-operative Society was responsible for the internal fittings and fixtures. Both contracts were carried out entirely satisfactorily.

In 1922, too, the Society joined other Cornish societies to consider a Federal Bakery Scheme, which had for its object the erecting of a Bakery in Mid-Cornwall. Roche was mentioned as a convenient site that would supply the greater part of Cornwall. The proposal, however, did not get general approval.

The Society continued to grow and calls came from further afield. Branches were opened at Treviscoe and St. Columb. With reference to the St. Columb Branch, this is a case of the tail wagging the dog. Fifty years ago the people of Queens and district were supplied by the traders of St. Columb. Now the shoe is on the other foot. The new traders of St. Columb Road, with their new method of trading, began supplying their previous market town, and with some success.

The Society has all along had the confidence of its members. It, since the very early days, always had more Share Capital than it required for trading and was forced to find channels for reinvestment. The Co-operative Wholesale Society was selected for the greater part of it, but the Society invested also in a number of cottages and in five to six hundred acres of farms.

For many years the Society paid 5 per cent on all Share Capital and could repay itself on its investments, but such high interest rates are now a memory only.

The district covered by the Society kept growing, other Branches were opened and eventually both coasts were reached.

Nearly the whole of the Society's trading premises have been built for the purpose for which they are used. This means much in business and contributes much to the convenience and benefit to the customer and a financial benefit to the Society.

Mr. S. H. Willcox, the popular manager of the St. Dennis Branch, came to the Society from Lee Moor Co-operative Society in 1925. For the first few years he managed the Treviscoe Branch. The St. Dennis Branch has made good progress since Mr. Willcox has been in charge and two considerable building extensions have been carried out.

Mr. J. Andrew is an employee of 33 years' standing. For some years he delivered goods with a horse and cart.

Mr. J. Landry, at present on the Bakery Staff, has been with the Society for 28 years. He formerly was a deliveryman and then bread roundsman.

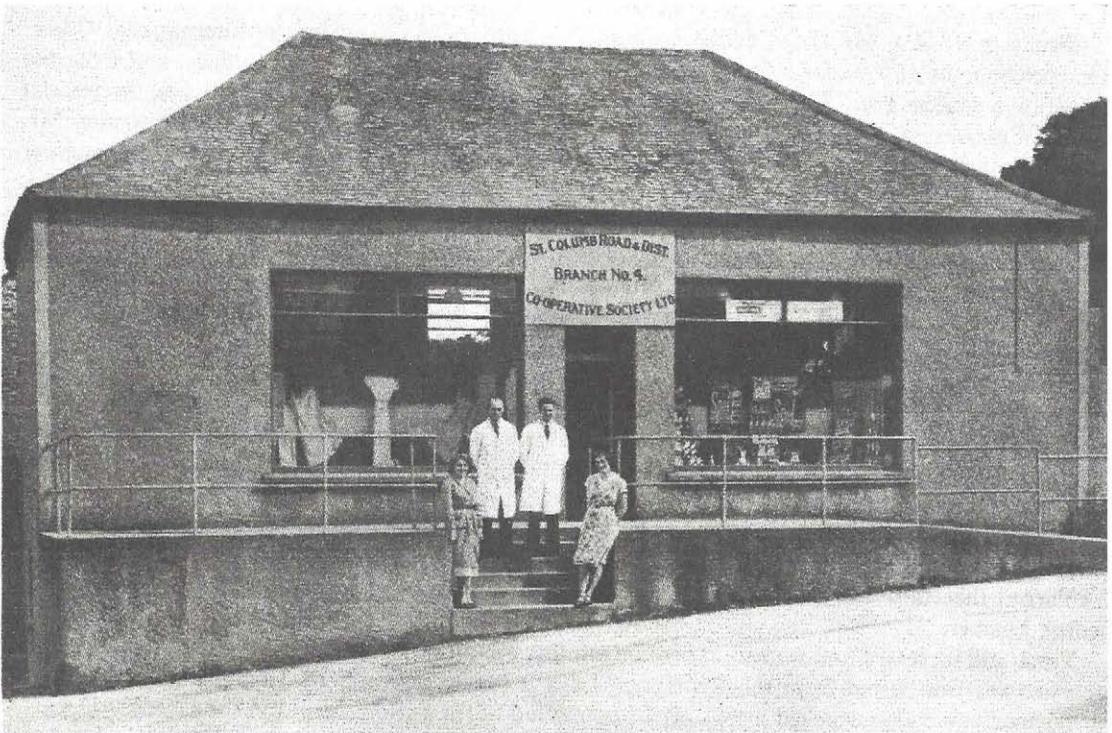
Mr. A. W. Hider came to us from Torquay in 1929 to take over the hawker's van. Since this van has been done away with he has covered a big district soliciting orders.

Mr. L. Solomon, Bakery Foreman, started with the Society as an apprentice in 1927, and has been in charge of the Bakery Department since 1939. The value of the bakery output then was £90 per week. In two years the weekly output was £300. In 1952 the output reached £630.

Mr. Solomon has had considerable success, too, in many exhibitions of the art of baking. In exhibits confined to the Co-operative Movement he has won some 20 prizes, including some "firsts," while in the "Open to all" competitions he has won 40 prizes, including a One Hundred Guinea Challenge Cup and a high award at an Olympic Exhibition.

As stated, Mr. E. T. Williams, our present Managing Secretary, took over the management of

#### GRAMPOUND ROAD BRANCH





the Society in 1934. He is the holder of numerous certificates issued by the International Correspondence Schools on Commodities, Business Organisation, Management and Finance, and from the Co-operative Union Ltd., for Economics, Organisation and Administration, Statistics, Secretarial Practice, Commercial Law, Accountancy, &c. The Society has made rapid progress under Mr. Williams' management, including the opening of four Branches. The Society's employees now number 100.

The district is made up by a number of more or less small villages, and the Society's progress and growth to its present considerable dimensions are all the more remarkable.

The pioneers of many movements are often soon lost sight of, but here we would like to pay our tribute to the pioneers of this Society; their steadfastness, their voluntary labour and their tenacity of purpose stands out, and we of a later generation reap where they have sown.

Mr. Gordon Nancarrow remembers :—

In March, 1908, I was appointed by the Society as their first apprentice. I started work in the original galvanised iron store under Mr. S. Richards, who had his son Arthur to help him. One-half of the store was the Grocery Department and the other the Provender Department.

Trade increased and the Society built a concrete store which is now part of the Bakery. Two more departments were added, Drapery and Hardware. We had an official opening, tea was served in the top storey, and Mr. R. R. Prynne and other important people from up country attended. Later we enlarged the Hardware Department and also opened a Butchery; Mr. Best, from St. Dennis, was our first butcher.

Trade still increased and we had to take on another apprentice named Bluett. He left and another employee was transferred from the Butchery. Later a young man named Stoneman, from Saltash, was engaged. We also engaged a number of young ladies for a short period in the Grocery Depart-

ment : Miss Gladys Parkin, of Higher Fraddon, Miss Grose, Miss Gladys Polkinghorne, and later on Miss May Suter. The first drapery assistant was a Mrs. Osborne, who was succeeded by Miss P. Edean, from Goss Moor, who was in turn followed by Miss Curtis, of Queens.

About 1910 we started a travelling shop which was in the charge of Mr. J. Bullock. As an indication of the distance we used to cover, this was the round we did on Mondays : Trevarren, Black Cross, Ruthers, Toldish, Goss Moor through Tregoss to Enniscaven and the lower part of St. Dennis, Egypt, Trerice and home. We worked 12 hours a day and the day's takings averaged about £30. We always left the Stores with 25 gallons of paraffin, 1cwt. sugar, and 1cwt. lard, in addition to the usual groceries. We collected orders for provender and other goods, including drapery, which were delivered by Mr. W. Skinner.

The prices charged in those days were very different to what they are to-day. What was called in those days a bakery batch cost 2s. 6d.

8½lb. Flour, 1s.

Pure Lard, 2lb. for 8½d.

Rice, 2d. per 1lb.

Best Back Bacon, 8d. per 1lb.

Woodbines, 5 for 1d.

Sugar, 1½d. and 2d. per 1lb.

Saffron, 2½d. per dram.

Tea, 1s. 6d. per 1lb.

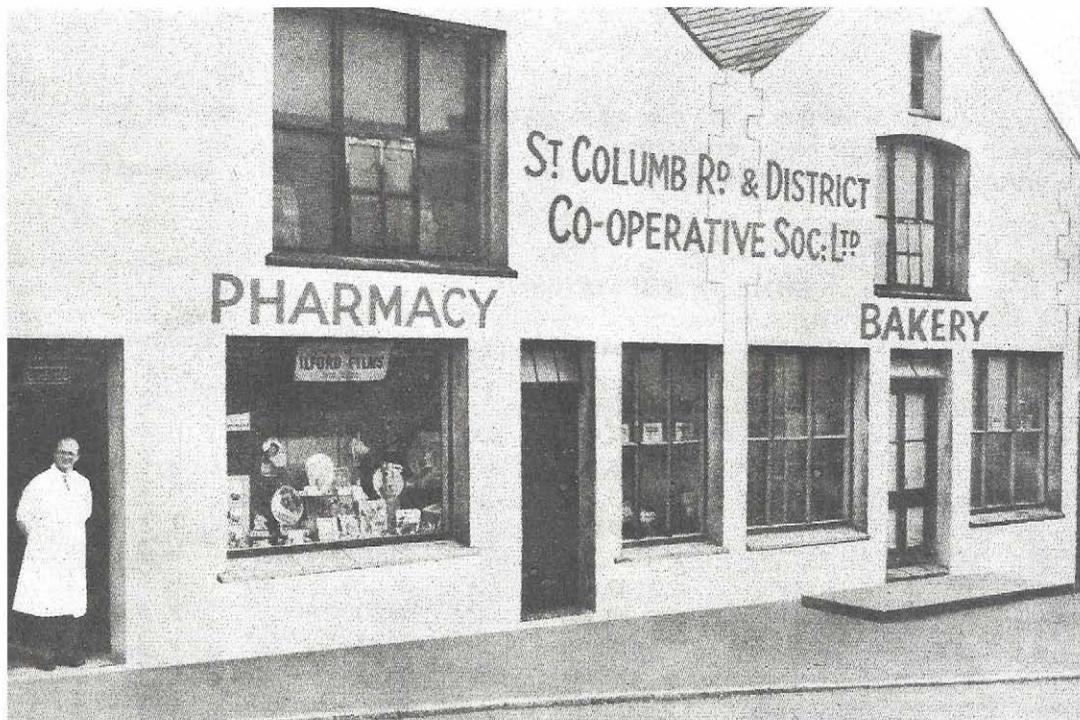
Large Reel Cotton, 1d.

Roll Tobacco, 3d. per oz.

In those days we could not sell margarine.

Wages, too, were very much lower. My wages for the first year were 3s. per week. The General Manager was paid 36s. weekly, and when I was appointed Manager at St. Dennis Branch when it was opened I received 24s. per week.

In spite of the long hours and amount of work which had to be done we still found time for a little quiet amusement. We used to string grains of maize on a length of cotton and put it down for





SUMMERCOURT BRANCH

Mrs. Solomon's ducks. When they picked it up we would pull the other end and a tug-of-war would take place until eventually the cotton would break.

The original store was lit by oil lamps, but the first permanent store was lit by acetylene gas.

### SOME INTERESTING FIGURES

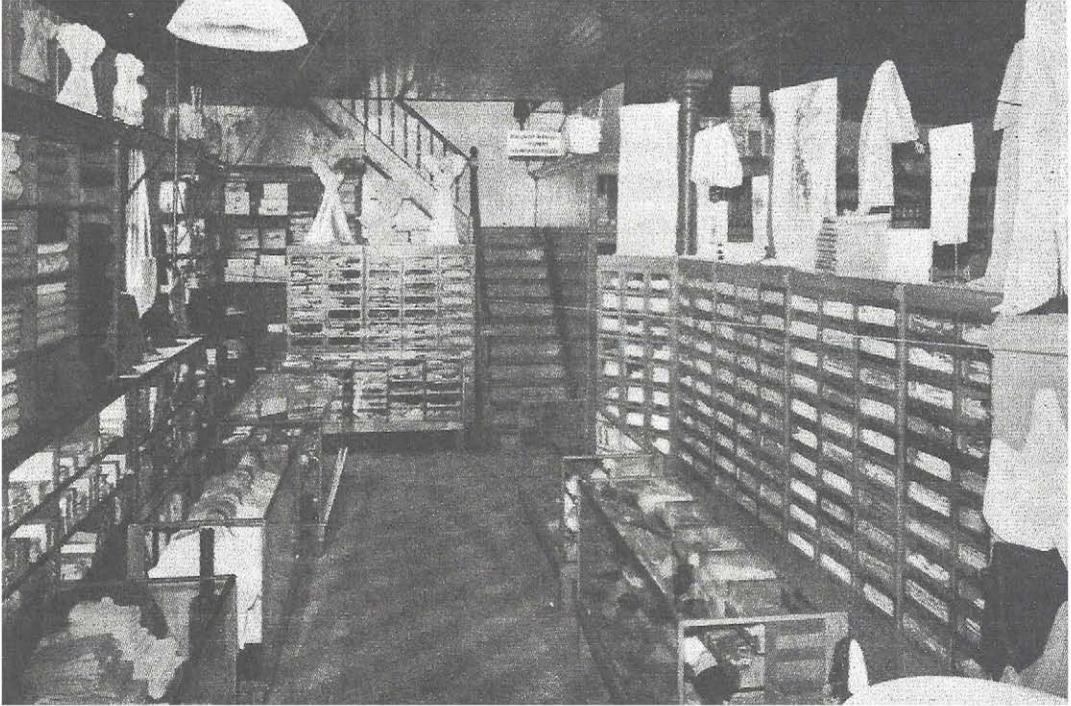
Year	Membership		Annual Sales		Share Capital		Dividend	
			£		£		s. d.	
1904	...	109	...	978	...	98	...	1 2
1909	...	279	...	4,930	...	572	...	1 8
1914	...	572	...	13,750	...	2,086	...	1 8
1917	...	865	...	23,856	...	3,482	...	1 8
1923	...	1,289	...	34,648	...	17,009	...	0 8
1927	...	1,555	...	38,368	...	21,001	...	1 2
1931	...	1,875	...	42,612	...	31,780	...	1 6
1936	...	2,206	...	49,300	...	48,990	...	1 6
1941	...	2,724	...	78,018	...	59,873	...	1 2
1946	...	3,118	...	110,364	...	98,715	...	1 6
1951	...	3,530	...	225,198	...	95,472	...	1 0
1953	...	3,511	...	236,272	...	88,991	...	0 10



FORE STREET, ST. COLUMB MAJOR



PADSTOW BRANCH



CENTRAL DRAPERY DEPARTMENT



PADSTOW BRANCH, SELF-SERVICE

**ST. COLUMB ROAD & DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.**  
 Registered June 13th, 1903.      Established November, 1903.      Registered No. 4024.

Bankers : Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.

Central Stores and Offices : St. Columb Road, St. Columb (Phone : Fraddon 102 and 103)

Branches—1. Wellington Road, St. Dennis      5. Padstow  
 2. Treviscoe      6. Trevarren  
 3. Market Place, St. Columb      7. Summercourt  
 4. Grampound Road

Pharmacy—St. Columb Road.

Gents' Outfitting Dept.—St. Columb Road.

Coal Depot—St. Columb Road Station.

# THE 100th REPORT & BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE 26 WEEKS ENDING SEPTEMBER 1st, 1953

Officers and Committee, with attendances :

\*President : Mr. W. J. T. NAIL, 26—23.

Managing Secretary : Mr. E. T. WILLIAMS, F.I.A.C., 26—21.

\*Auditor : Mr. R. R. PRYNNE, Wilton.

	Attendances			Attendances	
	Possible	Actual		Possible	Actual
Mrs. W. JOB .....	26	25	Mr. E. RICKARD.....	26	26
Mr. W. PINCH .....	26	26	*Mr. J. KENT .....	26	26
*Mr. C. BAGLOW .....	26	24	*Mr. W. P. MEAGOR ...	26	25
*Mr. R. GRIGG .....	26	24	Mr. F. C. TRUSCOTT ...	26	24

\* Retire, but eligible for re-election.

## THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING

will be held in Victory Hall, Queens, on Thursday, November 5th, 1953, at 7-30 p.m.

Chairman : The President (Mr. W. J. T. NAIL)

### AGENDA :

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| I. Minutes of last Meeting.               | IV. Election of Scrutineers. |
| II. Committee's Report and Balance Sheet. | V. Election of Committee.    |
| III. Auditor's Report.                    | VI. Other Business.          |

### COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS:

Share No.	Proposer	Second
President :—		
1167 Mr. W. J. T. NAIL	143 Mr. E. Orchard	482 Mr. B. A. Machoures
Auditor :—		
246 Mr. R. R. PRYNNE	3025 Mr. T. G. Wilkins	2252 Miss C. C. Tamblyn
General Committee :—		
1221 Mr. C. E. BAGLOW	1066 Mr. J. W. Dyer	2799 Mr. G. C. Blake
991 Mr. R. J. GRIGG	448 Mr. A. Pearce	948 Mr. A. Phillips
270 Mr. J. C. KENT	473 Mr. W. C. Rescorla	1673 Mr. L. Buscombe
437 Mr. W. P. MEAGOR	269 Mr. J. Rogers	1229 Mr. S. H. Willcox

**MEMBERS ONLY WILL BE ADMITTED** (a Member is the one whose name is entered on the Share Pass Book).

# COMMITTEE'S REPORT

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Fellow-Members,

**SALES.**—The Sales for the Half Year amount to £125,506. 16s. 2d., and, compared with the corresponding Half Year, show an increase of £5,613. 2s. 10d., or 4·4 per cent.

**NEW MEMBERS.**—One hundred new Members have been admitted during the period, removals and deaths total 75, leaving a net membership of 3,536.

**CAPITAL.**—Share Contributions amount to £4,311. 6s. 10d., Shares and Dividend withdrawn £10,645. 7s. 6d., Interest and Dividend credited brings the total to £88,079. 19s. 7d.

**COLLECTIVE LIFE ASSURANCE.**—During the Half Year 27 Claims have been received and the amount paid totals £284. 6s. 4d., an average of £10. 10s. 7d.

**SURPLUS.**—After providing for Depreciation, £1,040. 14s. 3d.; Interest on Share Capital, £1,133. 19s. 1d.; and meeting all expenses, there is a surplus of £4,864. 9s.

**DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS.**—We recommend a Cash Dividend of 10d. in the £ on the Sales during the past Half Year.

**GENERAL.**—We have great pleasure in presenting this the 100th Half-yearly Balance Sheet, thus completing 50 years of service to the people of this district. An examination of the Balance Sheet figures will reveal the very sound financial position of the Society and the Members have just cause to feel proud of their own business.

In reviewing the trading operations for the past six months we are pleased to report an increase in sales of 4·4 per cent. We are aware of the attractions offered by the neighbouring towns but we are confident that we can offer you a good standard of service and goods that will meet all competition in quality and price. All we ask is that you should give your own business the first opportunity before going farther afield. We would also draw your attention to the facilities offered by our Mutuality Club System for purchases in the Drapery, Men's Wear, Footwear and Furnishing Departments. Hire Purchase facilities are also available in the Furnishing Department.

When you have money to put away we strongly recommend investing it in your own Share Account, the limit of which is now £500. Deposits can be accepted at any Branch and withdrawals arranged at very short notice. It is a very easy and convenient method of saving; Interest is at 2½ per cent. We also recommend, especially for the juniors, the Thrift Fund, the limit of which is now £50. Interest is at 2½ per cent and deposits from 6d. upward can be made at any Branch.

THE COMMITTEE.

Dr.

## I.—CASH ACCOUNT

Cr.

Receipts.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			Payments.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
To Cash in hand, March 3rd, 1953						300	0	0	By Capital Account—								
Cash at Bank, March 3rd, 1953						1216	14	8	Share Withdrawals .....	10645	7	6					
Capital Account—									Thrift Withdrawals .....	883	2	5					
Share Contributions .....	4311	6	10										11528	9	11		
Thrift Contributions .....	770	17	9						Club Withdrawals—								
						5082	4	7	Mutuality .....	4404	0	0					
Entrance Fees .....						5	0	0	Christmas .....	9	12	6					
Club Receipts—													4413	12	6		
Mutuality .....	4497	19	6						Hire Purchase .....				666	1	1		
Christmas .....	540	19	0						Capital Expenditure—								
						5038	18	6	House Property .....					90	14	0	
Hire Purchase .....						534	1	4	Trade .....					237	14	3	
House Property Loans .....						25	5	1	House Mortgage .....					1280	0	0	
Sale of Property .....						600	0	0	Sundry Items—								
Investment Withdrawn .....						3000	0	0	C.L.A. Claims .....	284	6	4					
Sundry Items—									P.A.Y.E. Refunds .....	6	10	0					
Collective Life Claims .....	294	1	10						P.A.Y.E. .....	262	14	0					
P.A.Y.E. .....	269	4	0										553	10	4		
						563	5	10	Trading Account—								
Trading Account—									Goods Purchased—								
Central .....	45831	3	9						C.W.S. Ltd. ....	69488	18	10					
Bakery .....	11515	12	4						Merchants .....	31518	16	7					
St. Dennis .....	23905	19	1										101007	15	5		
Treviscoe .....	11312	12	1						Wages—								
St. Columb .....	11830	2	6						Distributive .....	11930	6	1					
Grampound Road .....	6368	12	7						Productive .....	1882	18	0					
Padstow .....	10970	14	8						Service .....	245	0	11					
Trevarren .....	2941	16	2										14058	5	0		
Summercourt .....	830	3	0						Other Expenses Charged to								
						125506	16	2	Trade .....					3510	0	11	
Trade Discounts .....						36	18	9	Investments Revenue Account—								
Co-operative Insurance Society									House Property Expenses ...					66	5	8	
Dividend .....						34	0	3	Bank Charges .....					22	0	8	
Bread Subsidy .....						476	16	3	Disposable Balance Account—								
Investments Revenue Account—									Collective Life Assurance								
Rents .....						136	19	1	Premium .....	505	10	7					
Interest—									Super. Fund Charges .....	264	19	1					
House Property Loans .....	0	14	11						Super. Fund Payments .....	33	5	8					
Defence and Saving Bonds...	32	5	0										803	15	4		
Bank, Current Account .....	13	17	10						Schedule "D" Tax .....				951	14	9		
Eagle Star .....	4	19	0						Education Expenses .....				41	1	11		
Co-op. Perm. Building Soc. ....	262	10	0						Subscriptions .....				21	18	10		
Hire Purchase .....	57	8	6						National Membership, Paid Out .....				49	0	5		
						371	15	3	Cash in hand, September 1st, 1953.....				300	0	0		
Disposal Balance Account—									Cash in Bank, September 1st, 1953.....				3985	15	1		
Bank Agency Commission .....						7	11	3									
Superannuation Credits .....						136	11	0									
National Membership Scheme Received...						39	12	9									
Collective Life Bonus .....						475	5	4									

£143587 16 1

£143587 16 1

Dr.

## II.—EXPENSES ACCOUNT

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Wages and Salaries—						
Distributive .....	11930	6	1			
Productive .....	1882	18	0			
Service .....	245	0	11			
				14058	5	0
Auditing, Committee Fees and Stocktaking		80	17	6		
Employees' Insurance .....		536	11	2		
Rent, Rates and Insurance .....		196	8	7		
Repairs—						
General .....		407	8	2		
Motor .....		325	5	4		
Licences .....		138	15	2		
Sundries and Incidentals .....		40	8	3		
Postage and Telephone .....		112	10	7		
Printing and Stationery .....		279	13	6		
Petrol and Oil .....		732	13	5		
Lighting, Heating and Power Charges .....		223	17	8		
Advertising .....		42	14	9		
Travelling and Canvassing .....		139	2	3		
Bakery Expenses, Coke, &c. ....		166	6	11		
				17480	18	3
Depreciation .....		1040	14	3		
Interest on Share Capital .....		675	0	0		

	£	s.	d.
By Co-operative Insurance Society Dividend ...	34	0	3
Balance to Trade Account .....	19162	12	3

*Use only*

## CO-OP. PASTEURISED MILK

Ask our Roundsman to call and  
ensure your supplies of **Safe** milk  
with dividend on your purchases

£19196 12 6

£19196 12 6

## III.—TRADE ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
To Stock, March 3rd, 1953 .....	31590	0	0
Goods Purchased and Carriage .....	100497	13	9
Trade Charges .....	19162	12	3
Surplus .....	5532	2	8

	£	s.	d.
By Net Sales .....	125463	9	10
C.W.S. Dividend .....	990	10	8
Trade Discount .....	36	18	9
Bread Subsidy .....	876	9	5
Stock, September 1st, 1953 .....	29415	0	0

£156782 8 8

£156782 8 8



## VI.—CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Members' Share Capital .....	88079	19	7
Interest Due .....	1133	19	1
Thrift Fund .....	3989	4	11
Due to Christmas Club .....	714	12	0
Accounts Owing—			
Trade .....	2167	17	7
Expenses .....	178	2	6
Reserve Fund .....	15000	13	10
Superannuation Due .....	53	0	1
Collective Life Assurance Due .....	9	15	6
Balance—Surplus .....	4864	9	0

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Trading Stocks .....				29415	0	0
Land, Buildings, &c., used in Trade .....	9718	0	0			
Fixtures and Plant .....	4516	0	0			
Motors .....	1872	0	0			
				16106	0	0
Land and Buildings not used in						
Trade—						
House Property .....				4689	0	0
Investments—						
Defence Bonds .....				3500	0	0
Shares—						
Ind. and Prov. Societies Ltd. ...	6570	0	0			
Other Bodies .....	30472	10	0			
				37042	10	0
Loans—						
Ind. and Prov. Societies Ltd. ...	10362	5	6			
Other Bodies .....	2471	8	7			
				12833	14	1
Deposit Accounts, C.W.S. Ltd. ...				3460	12	8
Other Assets—						
Mutuality Club Balances .....	1044	7	7			
Members' Accounts Owing .....	1991	12	2			
Hire Purchase Accounts .....	565	17	3			
Bread Subsidy Due .....	399	13	2			
Expenses charged forward .....	857	12	1			
				4859	2	3
Cash in hand, September 1st, 1953 .....				300	0	0
Cash in Bank, September 1st, 1953 .....				3985	15	1



*Be prepared  
for the . . .*

## WINTER STORMS

**Our Footwear Departments can meet  
your requirements**

£116191 14 1

£116191 14 1

*Signed* : E. T. WILLIAMS, Managing Secretary.

## VII.—LAND, BUILDINGS, FIXTURES AND ROLLING STOCK ACCOUNT

	Value last A/c.			Additions			Depreciation			Present Value		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Buildings .....	9933	0	0				215	0	0	9718	0	0
Fixtures .....	4592	0	0	237	14	3	313	14	3	4516	0	0
Motors .....	2384	0	0				512	0	0	1872	0	0
	£			16909	0	0	237	14	3	1040	14	3
										16106	0	0

### AUDITOR'S REPORT

The undersigned, having had access to all the Books, Deeds, Documents and Accounts of the Society, and having examined the foregoing Balance Sheet and verified the same with the Books, Deeds, Documents, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, now signs the same as found to be correct, duly vouched and in accordance with law.

*Signed* : R. R. PRYNNE,  
Approved Auditor, Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1948.

The Moat House Office,  
Wilton, Salisbury.  
September 29th, 1953.

VIII.—INVESTMENTS ACCOUNT

Description	Balance to begin	Additions this Period	Transfers	Interest as per Investments Revenue Account	Dividend	Total	Withdrawals this Period	Transfers	Balance at end
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Savings Bonds, 3 per cent, 1960/70 .....	2000 0 0	.....	.....	16 10 0	.....	2016 10 0	16 10 0	.....	2000 0 0
Defence Bonds, 3 per cent .....	500 0 0	.....	.....	7 10 0	.....	507 10 0	7 10 0	.....	500 0 0
Savings Bonds, 3 per cent, 1965/75 .....	1000 0 0	.....	.....	8 5 0	.....	1008 5 0	8 5 0	.....	1000 0 0
SHARES—									
C.W.S. Ltd. ....	6460 0 0	.....	.....	129 4 0	.....	6589 4 0	.....	129 4 0	6460 0 0
Co-operative Press Ltd. ....	110 0 0	.....	.....	2 4 0	.....	112 4 0	.....	2 4 0	110 0 0
Eagle Star Assurance .....	472 10 0	.....	.....	4 19 0	.....	477 9 0	4 19 0	.....	472 10 0
Co-op. Permanent Building Society .....	30000 0 0	.....	.....	262 10 0	.....	30262 10 0	262 10 0	.....	30000 0 0
£40542 10 0				431 2 0	.....	40973 12 0	299 14 0	131 8 0	40542 10 0
LOANS—									
C.W.S. Ltd. ....	9008 1 8	.....	129 4 0	112 5 10	990 10	810240 2 2	.....	.....	10240 2 2
Co-operative Press Ltd. ....	55 7 10	.....	2 4 0	.....	.....	57 11 10	.....	.....	57 11 10
People's Entertainment Society .....	64 11 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	64 11 6	.....	.....	64 11 6
Co-op. Permanent Building Society .....	1173 2 8	.....	.....	.....	.....	1173 2 8	.....	.....	1173 2 8
House Property Advances .....	43 11 0	1280 0 0	.....	0 14 11	.....	1324 5 11	26 0 0	.....	1298 5 11
C.W.S. Deposit Account .....	6384 12 5	.....	.....	76 0 3	.....	6460 12 8	3000 0 0	.....	3460 12 8
£16729 7 1		1280 0 0	131 8 0	189 1 0	990 10	819320 6 9	3026 0 0	.....	16294 6 9

IX.—CAPITAL AND RESERVES ACCOUNT

Description	Balance to begin	Additions as per Cash Account	Interest as per Investments Revenue Account	Allocations as per Disposable Balance Account	Total	Withdrawals as Cash Account	Balance at end
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Shares .....	90140 6 1	4311 6 10	.....	4273 14 2	98725 7 1	10645 7 6	88079 19 7
Thrift Fund .....	4050 14 10	770 17 9	50 14 9	.....	4872 7 4	883 2 5	3989 4 11
Christmas Club .....	183 5 6	540 19 0	.....	.....	724 4 6	.....	714 12 0
Reserve Fund .....	14173 14 10	605 0 0	221 19 0	.....	15000 13 10	.....	15000 13 10
£108548 1 3		6228 3 7	272 13 9	4273 14 2	119322 12 9	11538 2 5	107784 10 4

# NOTICES TO MEMBERS

All Pass Books and Thrift Books should be in not later than the last week in February and August each year.

Members when changing their Address should notify the Secretary ; particular notice should be taken to see that the correct Name and Address is on the Pass Book.

The Committee meets every Monday at the Central Premises, St. Columb Road.

The Thrift Fund or Penny Bank is open to any person who desires to place savings with the Society. The Fund is particularly suitable for Children. Deposits may be made in any amount up to £2. Limit £50.

Members may add to their Share Capital up to £500. Deposit Accounts and Current Accounts can be opened with the C.W.S. Bank. Deposits and Withdrawals are made through our Society. Good Interest is paid.

Members should be aware that they are insured against death, both the Husband and the Wife, no matter which is the Member ; 2s. per £ on death of Wife, 4s. per £ on death of Husband, 5s. per £ on death of Single Person. The Amount of the Benefit is determined by the average yearly purchases with the Society. In the event of death, a copy of the Death Certificate should be forwarded to the Secretary, and the Member's Share Number.

The Society has a Mutuality Club in operation. Members upon being accepted may pay from 1s. to 5s. per week on Coupons value £1 to £5. After the third week's contribution the appropriate Coupon will be issued, which can then be exchanged for the goods required. The Coupons are exchangeable at any of the following Departments : Drapery, Boots, Furnishing, Crockery or Hardware. Further information supplied on application.

Hire Purchase facilities are available for the purchase of furniture, &c. Easy payments arranged.

National Membership. Members should give the code letters **SCR** with their share number when making purchases at other Societies.

Persons wishing to join the Society may do so on application to the Central Stores or Branches. Entrance Fee, 1s.

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**HOURS OF BUSINESS** } Open 8-30 a.m. Close 5-30 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.  
7 p.m. Friday, 12-30 p.m. Saturday. Closed daily 12-30 to 1-30 p.m.

