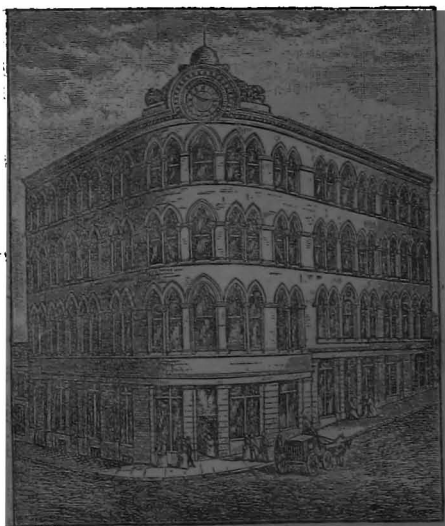


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THE HISTORY OF THE  
ROCHDALE PIONEERS



**CENTRAL STORES, TOAD LANE, 1863.**

*SELF-HELP BY THE PEOPLE.*

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THE HISTORY OF THE  
ROCHDALE PIONEERS

BY

GEORGE JACOB HOLYOAKE

AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF CO-OPERATION IN ENGLAND," "SIXTY YEARS OF  
AN AGITATOR'S LIFE," ETC. ETC.

1844-1892

TENTH EDITION REVISED AND ENLARGED

"From nothing, from the least,  
The lowliest village (what but here and there  
A reed-roofed cabin by a river side),  
Grew everything; and year by year  
Patiently, fearlessly working her way  
O'er brook and field, o'er continent and sea."  
ROGERS' *Revue*.



LONDON  
SWAN SONNENSCHN & CO., LIM.  
NEW YORK: CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1907

## SOME OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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"A tenth edition, revised and enlarged, is conclusive proof, if need there be, of the permanent value of the literary work of this veteran co-operator. The co-operative movement in England constitutes one of the best evidences of the stamina and capacity of the British working-man, and has made its mark the world over, as may be seen from the interesting account of the number of translations that have been made of Mr. Holyoake's book into foreign languages."—*Economic Review*.

"A very good account of the growth and success of a practical co-operative enterprise. Mr. Holyoake writes with much force and a certain picturesqueness of style, and his book well deserves perusal."—*Westminster Review*.

"The twenty-eight have left behind them an institution which deals justly, and provides things honest in the sight of all men. If the co-operators had learnt nothing from the vast administrative tasks which have been thrown open to them, if they had reached no higher civic standard, and gained nothing in independence and in character from the new footing which the pioneers secured for them, surely Toad Lane deserves immortality."—*Daily Chronicle*.

"The first complete edition of Mr. Holyoake's 'History of the Rochdale Pioneers,' brought down from 1844 to the Rochdale Congress of 1892."—*Co-operative News*.

"A most interesting and valuable book."—*Rochdale Observer*.

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FIRST REPRINT OF TENTH EDITION, November 1893;

SECOND, April 1900; THIRD, January 1907.

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Dedicated  
(BY PERMISSION)  
TO LORD BROUGHAM,  
WHO NEVER CEASED TO ADVANCE THE  
INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE  
AND WHO LENT,  
WHEN NO ONE ELSE IN HIS POSITION WOULD,  
THE INFLUENCE OF HIS NAME  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE,  
OF WHICH  
CO-OPERATION IS THE INDUSTRIAL PART.

## PREFACE

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THE chapters of this little History were commenced to be inserted in the *Daily News* (in 1857), as the reader may infer from note to Chapter I. The breaking out of the Mutinies in India absorbed all space in that quarter, and prevented the completion of the publication in those columns; otherwise, the subsequent chapters might have had the advantage of notes of the Editor of the *Daily News* (Mr. William Weir), who had great knowledge of, and interest in, Co-operative Associations, abroad and at home.

When the chapters appeared as a book, it became known to many persons, interested in social ideas. Mr. Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune* had an edition printed in New York. This was the first reprint. Next, Fernando Garrido, a Spanish dramatic writer and publicist, made a translation in his "Historia de las Asociaciones Obreras en Europa." Professor A. Talandier published a translation in *Le Progres de Lyons*. Great impetus, the translator re-

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ported, was thereby given to Co-operation in Lyons. The Emperor, who had social ideas, commended Co-operation to the Lyonnese, and mentioned it in an Imperial speech. M. Elie Reclus, editor of *L'Association*, told the moral of this story of the Pioneers to the Parisians, in his fable of "The Blind Man and the Lame Man." Mr. John Stuart Mill, by quoting passages from this little history in his "Principles of Political Economy," did more than any one else to call attention to the proceedings of the Rochdale Pioneers. Mr. Joseph Cowen read chapters of this narrative nightly to pitmen and other workmen who were his neighbours, which led to the formation of the Blaydon-on-Tyne Store, now occupying a street, and owning a considerable farm. Mr. Henry Pitman reprinted the book in the *Co-operator*. Mr. M'Guiness of Paris made a translation of it in the French *Journal Co-operative*.

The first principal translation in book form was one in French by Madame Godin (under the name of Marie Moret), for the information of the workmen of Guise. Professor Vigano of Milan published an Italian translation in a quarto volume. M. O. Cambier, a magistrate of Paturage, Belgium, issued a complete translation of 283 pages at Verviers and Paris, including



the prefaces of 1857 and 1867, and a biography of the author. Later, Signor Lorenzi Pontè published in Milan a translation from the French of Madame Godin. Herr H. Hantschke published a translation in German, with engravings of the old store in Toad Lane and of the present central store in Rochdale, of which a presentation copy was sent me in ornate Berlinesse binding.

The last translation has been that of Dr. St. Bernat of Buda-Pesth into the Hungarian language. The Sociological Society of America issued a small Manual of Co-operation. This epitome, excellently executed by ladies, included some of the following chapters. The Manual was popular, I judge, as a share of profit from it was sent to me. Foreign translations on a subject new to the public do not at first allure readers, and the translators generally lose money by their generous labour. I received no profit from any, nor stipulated for any. On the contrary, I felt under obligation to the translators for being at the expense of introducing to their countrymen an English method of industrial self-help, which otherwise might have remained much longer unknown and unregarded.

"Self-Help by the People," here first used, I believe, as a title, has been employed by Dr. Smiles to desig-

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nate his popular book of brief biographies. In 1860 a condensed edition of this History was issued in Paisley, purporting to be "Abridged from the Original Publication," but what, or whose publication, was not stated. An article contributed to "Chambers's Journal" contained passages, purporting to be original, taken from the Rochdale story. The correction was at once made by the editor. Afterwards I was sorry I mentioned the matter, as other writers might have gone on quoting as their own, passages which would have advanced the knowledge of Co-operation. The *Quarterly Review* of 1863 had occasion to include this "History" in the list of books reviewed, in a very remarkable article on Co-operation, but it suppressed the name of the author. The writer of the review suggested that a single book of nameless authorship had an odd look among others that enjoyed paternity. The editor adopted an extraordinary mode of removing the singularity—he omitted the names of all the other authors reviewed, though among them were writers of the most perfect "regulation" type of thought, and the result was the only article that probably ever appeared in the *Quarterly* in which only authorless books were reviewed.

There remains, however, the satisfaction of knowing that this book has been useful. Mr. William Cooper

of Rochdale, writing to the *Daily News*, December, 1863, stated that of 332 Co-operative Societies then on the Registrar's Returns, 251 had been established since 1857, when "Self-Help" was published, and he adds, "I have heard several persons ascribe the origin of their now prosperous Society to reading the History. Not fewer than 500 or 600 copies were sold in Rochdale. It was bought and read by a few working men in many towns in the United Kingdom." This History is now revised, enlarged, illustrations added, and brought down to the Rochdale Congress of 1892.

The Italians have a proverb of unusual sagacity for that quick-witted people, namely: "They who go slowly go far." Co-operation has gone both slow and far. It has issued like the tortoise from its Lancashire home in England; it has traversed France, Germany, and even the frozen steppes of Russia; the bright-minded Bengalese are applying it, as is the soon-seeing and far-seeing American; and our own emigrant countrymen in Australia are endeavouring to naturalise it there. Like a good chronometer, Co-operation is unaffected by change of climate, and goes well in every land.

G. J. H.

EASTERN LODGE, BRIGHTON,  
September, 1892.



**THE SOCIALISTS' INSTITUTE.**

**THE WEAVERS' ARMS.**

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