

THE SHEFFIELD SOCIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE.

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THE Sheffield Social Survey Committee was formed in 1928 for the purpose of undertaking a comprehensive survey of the social life of Sheffield in all its aspects, its development in the past as well as its present condition. The aim of the survey was to find out those facts concerning the life of the city which were of significance for its development, to examine those facts, and to present them in a systematic form so that they would furnish the community with knowledge which might assist its members in their efforts towards civic progress and in the encouragement of a finer sense of citizenship.

The survey work of the Committee was commenced in April 1929, upon the appointment of a full-time Secretary. Since then a large number of enquiries have been undertaken and a considerable amount of very interesting material has been collected relating to social conditions in Sheffield. Some of this material has already been embodied in reports, e.g., on the Milk Supply, on Housing and Licensing, which have been published in this series; and some has been published by other bodies, e.g., the Sheffield Council of Social Service in the case of a survey of children's cinema matinées, and the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance in the case of a special investigation undertaken in Sheffield on its behalf. There remains, however, a great deal of material which it has not been possible to publish for lack of funds. It is expected that some of this material will be published during the autumn of 1932, including reports on Unemployment, Adult Education, Transport, and Juvenile

Welfare. It is also expected that an important report on the Standard of Living will be issued during the winter. Further publications will, however, depend upon the receipt of additional financial support.

It is hoped that these interim reports on various aspects of social life in the city will be found both interesting and useful to members of the general body of citizens and to students of social questions, and that they will stimulate considerable thought and discussion on the issues which they raise. The Committee holds no brief for any specific social policy and it is not prejudiced in favour of any section of political opinion, either locally or nationally, but it does hope that its reports will not only be read with interest, but that they will be used as the basis of political and voluntary group action dedicated to the improvement of the social well-being of the community.

Further copies of this report and of other publications of the Committee may be obtained from any Sheffield bookseller, from any of the Sheffield Public Libraries, or from the Secretary. A list of prospective reports will be found on the back cover. The following are already available :—

- No. 1. A Report on a Survey of the Milk Supply of Sheffield.
By A. J. ALLAWAY, B.A.
- No. 2. A Report on the Housing Problem in Sheffield.
By A. D. K. OWEN, M.Com.
- No. 3. A Report on a Survey of Licensing in Sheffield.
By DR. J. N. REEDMAN, M.Com.
- No. 4. A Report on Unemployment in Sheffield.
By A. D. K. OWEN, M.Com.
- No. 5. A Survey of the Development of Adult Education in Sheffield.
By G. P. JONES, M.A.
- No. 6. A Survey of Juvenile Employment and Welfare in Sheffield.
By A. D. K. OWEN, M.Com.
- No. 8. A Survey of Transport in Sheffield.
By A. G. POOL, B.Sc.(Econ.).

PREFATORY NC

THE transport facilities of an industrial city are one of the main determining factors of its economic and social life. On the adequacy of its means of communication with the outside world depends to a very considerable extent its economic prosperity, while its internal means of transport influence the distribution of its population and decide whether its inhabitants shall be concentrated in the central districts of the city or diffused in the healthier suburban areas. A survey of the internal and external transport facilities of Sheffield leads one to the conclusion that the city is, on the whole, very well served. Sheffield deservedly has a reputation as the possessor of one of the most efficient and cheapest tramway and bus systems in the country. It is on the main lines of two railway companies, and, thanks to its central geographical position, is served by through trains to all the more important towns in the country. No trader need encounter any difficulties in getting his goods delivered by road, there being many firms in the district, as well as the two railway companies, which are prepared to transport goods by road to any part of the country. But so far as water transport is concerned, Sheffield is less favourably placed than a number of industrial towns, as it is cut off from the main canal system; on the other hand, it has a direct outlet to the sea via the Don navigation. In facilities for air transport Sheffield at present lags behind, many towns having already provided themselves with aerodromes.

Controversy has been deliberately avoided in this report; the reader will find no discussion of the road versus rail or the tram versus bus controversies, these being concerned with problems which are not peculiar to Sheffield. The aim of the report is simply to sketch the historical development of transport in Sheffield and to present a picture of the city's transport facilities at the present time.

The writer is greatly indebted to many municipal, railway, canal and road transport officials who supplied him with information, statistical and otherwise. In particular, he wishes to thank Mr. A. R. Fearnley, General Manager of the Sheffield Corporation Tramways and Motors; Messrs. Lees, Collins and Taylor of the L.N.E.R. and L.M.S.R., and Mr. Albert Kirk, Secretary of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation. It must, of course, be understood that where opinions are expressed the responsibility for them rests on the writer alone.

A. G. POOL.

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