

THEY ALSO SERVE



The Story of The Shop Worker

by **P. C. HOFFMAN**

*with a Preface by
The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, P.C., M.P.*



SHOP ASSISTANTS—BE GOOD!

The Old System (to the Reporter): "I've had no quarrel with our victims—none whatever—until they started to defend themselves!"

Cartoon by Will Dyson on the John Lewis strike.
Reproduced by courtesy of the *Daily Herald*.

They Also Serve

The Story of
the Shop Worker

by

P. C. HOFFMAN

*formerly an Officer of the
Shop Assistants' Union*

Foreword by

The Rt. Hon. HERBERT MORRISON
P.C., M.P.



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the men and women,
known and unknown, who have by their
exertions, struggle and sacrifice contributed to
the revolution in working conditions of those
employed in the shops and warehouses of
this country.

P. C. HOFFMAN

PREFACE

WHATEVER efforts a Government might make to ensure that the people are able to buy regular supplies of necessities, we rely to a great extent upon the efficiency, goodwill and honesty of the distributive trades.

In this, so important to the comfort and happiness of women and their families, Government, trade and consumers should be working to the same ends. When for any reason they lose sight of these ends "fair shares" are in jeopardy, and "black" markets and "under-the-counter" practices breed discontent and deprivation.

Every shop assistant has a direct personal interest in the problems of modern distribution. He can do much in the course of his daily work, both by his conscientiousness and his courtesy. His personal efficiency, too, can be a direct help to our national concern with the use and distribution of manpower.

And don't let anyone think it is always easy to be attentive and courteous. The public can be most difficult and awkward. The shop can look very different according to which side of the counter you are standing, as can traffic problems according to whether (at the moment) you are a motorist or a pedestrian. But you are dealing with human worries, and if a harassed housewife turns away from your counter satisfied and cheerful, it is not only your best reward—it is "good business" because she'll come back to buy again.

It is a fine thing when a body of workers can win for themselves the confidence, respect and liking of the public. When its members do that, it may be better support for the aims of a Trade Union than its strike fund. And that is especially true of shop assistants.

Serving in a shop is not just a matter of "shoving" packets of goods over the counter, nor is it just till-ringing. It is a job which, in some trades, needs study and training, and which in all trades calls for ready, good advice and a genuine spirit of helpfulness and politeness.

I can speak from both sides of the counter. I have suffered on both sides, but, on the whole, as a shop assistant and as a customer, have been more often happy than unhappy.

Shop assistants have moved a long way in conditions and public respect since I was employed in a shop, first as errand boy and then as shop assistant. I started at eight in the morning. I finished at half-past nine in the evening, ten on Fridays, and midnight on Saturdays. It was years before we got an early closing day, and then it was five o'clock. I enjoyed the work, as I have always tried to enjoy whatever job I was doing; but it was a dog's life, especially as I was trying to read and study in my spare time. Too often it meant getting up at six, reading in a cold bedroom, and taking my books to a coffee shop at night (a halfpenny cup of cocoa was the order) after the shop shut, to economize in light and heating. If you want another angle on the life, try to get hold of *Kipps* by the late H. G. Wells.

I think that most of all I enjoyed my efforts at window-dressing. I regarded it as an art, and if anyone had dared to say it wasn't, I would have defended fiercely my opinion. For from it I got all the joy of creation. I had done it all myself, and could step back on the pavement and get from my window all the satisfaction and all the divine doubt of an artist. To me it was not a mundane arrangement of goods and price-tickets. To me it was an expression of proportion, of colour, of balance. I only hope it helped to sell the goods, but I would not be sure about that.

So it is with pleasure and sympathy that I congratulate my old Parliamentary colleague, Mr. P. C. Hoffman, on completing this book about the old Shop Assistants' Union and its part in achieving the vastly improved conditions of shop assistants, and that I recommend all those who work in shops to read it. I do not agree with every line he has written, and Mr. Hoffman would, no doubt, be disappointed if I did; but I am very glad to have an opportunity of paying tribute to his great work for the Union, spread over so many years, and to a book which is so readable and so compelling in its sincerity.

HERBERT MORRISON

11 Downing Street, S.W.1

CONTENTS

PREFACE

page v

PART ONE

Chapter IN THE BEGINNING

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---|
| I. | PIONEERS, OH PIONEERS! | 2 |
| II. | CLOSING LEGISLATION | 8 |

PART TWO

"LIVING-IN"

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------|----|
| III. | "LIVING-IN"—PERSONAL | 18 |
| IV. | "LIVING-IN"—IMPERSONAL | 33 |
| V. | HOW "LIVING-IN" DIED OUT | 48 |

PART THREE

WAGES, 1911-1921

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----|
| VI. | THE FIRST PHASE—TO 1914 | 68 |
| VII. | POST 1914—GROCERY | 97 |
| VIII. | POST 1914—HAIRDRESSING | 104 |
| IX. | WHOLESALE DRUGS AND OTHER TRADES | 118 |
| X. | DRAPERY—WHOLESALE | 134 |
| XI. | DRAPERY—DRESSMAKING | 143 |
| XII. | DRAPERY—RETAIL | 161 |

PART FOUR

RETREAT AND RETURN

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| XIII. | REAR-GUARD ACTION | 204 |
| XIV. | FIGHTING IN THE SHADE | 216 |
| XV. | 1931 AND ALL THAT | 228 |
| XVI. | WAGE-FIXING MACHINERY | 235 |
| | POSTSCRIPT | 251 |
| | INDEX | 255 |

Note

It is due to the kind encouragement and support of the Executive Committee and members of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers that this book appears. This Union of 350,000 members is the amalgamation, completed in 1947, of several organisations, the two largest of which were the Co-operative Employees' and the Shop Assistants' Unions. This is not a history of those Unions, but is a story of how necessary and welcome changes have come in shop life generally. If it appears that most of the activities centre round the Shop Assistants' Union, that is due to the circumstances of the case, for the Co-operative Employees' Union (in 1921 changing its name to the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers) did not commence to open its ranks to other than those in the service of the great Co-operative Movement until after 1918, when its share in the heat and burden of the fray progressively increased.

ILLUSTRATIONS

1.	REPRODUCTION OF OLD INDENTURE <i>between pages 22 & 23</i>	
2.	THE AUTHOR AS AN APPRENTICE <i>facing page</i>	38
3.	AN EARLY PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM WHITELEY	38
4.	SANDWICH-BOARD PARADE AGAINST "LIVING-IN"	54
5.	EMPLOYEES OF BEAVANS OF BYKER ON STRIKE	70
6.	SIXTY-HOUR WEEK DEMONSTRATION, 1909	86
7.	STRIKE AT DAVID EVANS, CARDIFF, 1914	86
8.	STAFF OF ROGER EDWARDS & CO., DRAPERS, MERTHYR TYDFIL, ON STRIKE AGAINST "LIVING- IN," 1911	166
9.	THE STRIKE COMMITTEE DURING THE ARMY AND NAVY STORES STRIKE, 1919	166
10.	JOHN LEWIS DURING THE STRIKE AT HIS STORES, 1920	182
11.	SIR HERBERT KAY, C.B.E.	198
12.	THE AUTHOR	214

The majority of the sketches in the book are by Jack Dodsworth and are reproduced from the pages of *The Shop Assistant*, now no more. The design on the wrapper is by Gwyneth Hoffman.

Old notice to shop assistants still affixed at a well-known drapers' in East Anglia :

Store must open promptly at 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. all the year round.

Store must be swept, counter, base shelves and showcases dusted.

Lamps trimmed, filled and chimney cleaned, pens made, doors and windows opened.

A pail of water and scuttle of coal must be brought in by each clerk before breakfast, if there is time to do so and attend customers who call.

Any employee who is in the habit of smoking spanish cigars, getting shaved at a barbers shop, going to dances, and other such places of amusement will surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his integrity and alround honesty.

Each employee must pay not less than one guinea per year to the church, and attend Sunday School every Sunday.

Men are given one evening a week for courting purposes and two if they go to prayer meetings regularly.

After 14 hours work spare time should be devoted to reading good literature.

PART ONE

IN THE BEGINNING

*"Named and nameless all live in us ;
One and all they lead us yet
Every pain to count for nothing
Every sorrow to forget."*

WILLIAM MORRIS

Chapter I

PIONEERS, OH PIONEERS!

JAMES E. THOROLD ROGERS, in his *Six Centuries of Work and Wages*, says in Chapter XIV: "For more than two centuries-and-a-half the English law, and those who administered the law, were engaged in grinding the English workman down to the lowest pittance, in stamping out every expression or act which indicated any organised discontent, and in multiplying penalties upon him when he thought of his natural rights. I am not deceived by the hypocrisy which the preamble of an Act of Parliament habitually contains and the assertions which are as habitually contradicted by the details of the measure."

One can only understand properly the nineteenth-century struggle of the British working people with that sombre curtain as a background, so boldly drawn by one of our ablest and most public-spirited economists. Keep it in mind. For two hundred and fifty years the British working class were kept in a state bordering on slavery.

On March 29th and 30th, 1891, there met in Birmingham representatives from eleven local shop assistant associations. They were called Half-Holiday or Early Closing Associations. Those from London and Manchester called themselves quite frankly "Unions."

They agreed to form a National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks. I have often wished to rescue from oblivion the names of those brave and courageous seventeen representatives. They are W. Johnson (Manchester), J. Sharpe, G. Thomas, Rees Jones (Liverpool), J. MacPherson, N. Lewis (London), J. Bowman, G. Robson (Sunderland), T. B. Duncan (Leeds), T. Baumforth, T. W. Woods (Hull), T. G. Weaver, J. Jarman (Birmingham), A. N. Scott (Bolton), J. Weston (Oldham), R. Morris (Ashton), and R. Davis (South Wales).

They did not know that they were brave and courageous.

They would probably have repudiated the suggestion. They did what they felt to be a right and proper thing to do, because they were moved that way. The times in which they lived made the work perilous. Yes, but to face peril is the ordinary lot of most human beings. The thing which needed courage was to face the hostility of one's fellows or their sublime indifference.

It may be they did not realise all they were up against. That was just as well, for if they had stopped to consider, the task might not have been attempted. Pioneers do not stop to weigh up nicely all the obstacles they might encounter. They were to learn quickly what a hard and difficult path they had set out upon, for half their memberships dissolved when they found they were to subscribe to a Trade Union. For Trade Unions were not just "not respectable"—they were "taboo" to all loyal citizens. The right of collective bargaining was secured by the Combination Act of 1825, but the hostility of two-and-a-half centuries was not to be wiped out by a mere Act of Parliament. In their first annual report it is stated: "With one exception all our branches have had to reorganise themselves from the nominal subscription, philanthropic Early Closing Association state of existence, to that of a self-supporting, self-governing state as embodied in the National Union." Let me try and convey to you something of the atmosphere of the period in which those seventeen pioneers met in Birmingham in March, 1891.

Sir Blundell Maple at this time introduced a Bill into the Commons which would give to "salaried shop assistants, after a specified term of service, a half-holiday once a week at 4 p.m." A Mr. Provands introduced a Bill which limited "the hours of work of women and children in shops to 74 per week."

An agreement which a branch shop manager of "an oil merchant and grocer" signed at that time, provided "that he work continuously from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day, with the exception of Saturday, when he must work continuously from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m." for which service he was to receive every Saturday the sum of 28s. For one year after leaving the firm's employ he must not be employed in the same

business either as a principal, manager, assistant, or traveller for any other person or company, or as manager or assistant to his wife, unless he pay the firm £100. They may release him from service by giving one day's notice, but he must give seven days' notice.

In 1890 three members of the United Shop Assistants' Union of London were found guilty of conspiracy, and sentenced to pay £20, £10, and £5 respectively, or undergo four weeks', two weeks', and one week's imprisonment respectively.

It is not without significance that the only reference to "shop assistants" in Mr. and Mrs. Webb's *History of Trades Unionism* is the following: "Trades which had not yet enjoyed permanent combinations began to organise in the expectation of raising their wages to the level of their more fortunate brethren. The Sheffield shop assistants combined to petition for early closing." They gave as their authority the *Sheffield Iris*, September 27th, 1825. I say it is not without significance, because the question of closing the shops earlier is the paramount question for shop workers. It was so in 1825, and likewise in 1891; it is so now in 1949, after 124 years, and we are still talking of early closing. Shop assistants are moved more by this than by any other issue, including wages.

As I have already pointed out, the first associations dealt exclusively with early closing. The policy of the newly formed national union confined its attention to "closing" rather than to "hours of work." The first Bill which they drafted, and which that very good friend, Sir Charles Dilke, introduced into the House of Commons at the close of the session of 1896, provided *inter alia* for 7 p.m. closing on three days, 1 p.m. on one day, 9 p.m. one day, and 10 p.m. one day, with Sunday-closing all day; the local authority to fix the days on which these closing times should operate; no persons to be allowed to be employed half-an-hour after closing. The Bill also dealt with overtime, seats, mealtimes, sanitation and cleanliness of "living-in" quarters. Nothing dealing with hours of employment, you notice. Why was this? Why is it, indeed, that to this day shop workers are so very much interested in the closing of the shop? Because the social question is involved with it. You cannot

mix with your fellows when tied up in the shop, and even if some are free, others are not. That is, and was, the crux of the matter.

But long hours were, of course, a serious factor in the working lives of shop workers. I could tell you of those many Parliamentary inquiries into the long hours worked, of the Union branch meetings which used to commence at ten o'clock at night and were over in time before the pubs closed at midnight. But I will try and bring it home to you in another way. And thereby hangs a tale. During the first World War, two local policemen called at our house whilst I was away and tactfully warning my wife not to be upset or disturbed, produced a telegram which read: "Meet usual place midnight—Ridgwell." Said the officer: "Now this is very suspicious, very suspicious indeed. We are at war, your husband has a German name." Quite an Edgar Wallace setting. The gentlemen of the law were very surprised when my wife burst out laughing and told them it was a staff meeting of Albert Bakers.

It was common to find shop assistants working 90 hours a week. But merely to say that does not convey the scandal sufficiently clearly to the mind. One cannot *feel* that 90 hours. That shop manager who contracted to work from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. five days of the week and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. one day of the week only did, after all, 86 hours a week, including mealtimes. Therefore, some shop assistants must have worked later than that and perhaps on Sunday as well, which was just what did happen. It was not at all unusual for the shops to be kept open, especially in industrial areas, after the pubs and music halls had shut, so that people could shop on their way home. It was quite the common thing to take care of the customer's shopping bag and parcels, for them to be picked up after the show was over. It was quite a common thing for deliveries of purchases to be going on at customers' houses in the early morning. Then, after the pubs had closed, the shows were over, the public served—the shop had to be cleared, stock put back on the shelves, counters scrubbed, and in the case of some of the "multiples," stocktaking had to be done.

When I was apprenticed in 1894 at the "Holborn Silk

Market," we had to take turns in being "on the door" after the shop had shut and the staff gone. There were two doors we had to be "on," one in Castle Street (now Furnival Street) and the other in Holborn. Our duty was to stand at the door or sit on the step and see that no stranger entered the "living-in" quarters. Those quarters were locked up finally at 11 p.m. six nights of the week and at 12 midnight on Saturday. As we started "squad-ding" at 7.30 a.m., it became something more than a "working day" by the time we youngsters had finished. You can see how, in various ways, when there was no restriction or restraint, the working hours could be extended. To close the shop was not enough, for work could go on shamelessly without notice and without pay, fee, or reward, long after the shutters were up.

Sunday work was frequent enough, especially in working-class areas in our larger towns. Street trading on Sunday still goes on. And some "multiples" had such a bad system operating that the manager had to do some Sunday work to keep the regulations.

Public conscience had already been stirred. There was formed as long ago as 1842 the "Metropolitan Drapers Association for abridging the hours of business in all trades." In 1846 a meeting was held in Covent Garden Theatre, when thousands were unable to obtain admission; £5,000 was obtained to distribute an essay on "Early Closing." Lords, bishops, and distinguished people waxed eloquent in their appealings to the public to shop earlier—not to the shop workers to arise and be men. Gradually with the failure of all these well-meant efforts did the people behind the counter begin to take a hand in things themselves. "He who would be free, himself must strike the blow." Some of them commenced to strike in earnest. Early closing riots became frequent. The Union Annual Report of 1892 says: "We know that this Movement is often accompanied with regrettable incidents. . . ."

Now there were several of those regrettable incidents, and I give, for example, that "incident" of 1890, when three members of the United Shop Assistants' Union of London were imprisoned. A grocer in Harrow Road, London,

refused to close at 4 p.m. on a Thursday afternoon. So the members of the Union determined to picket the shop, distributing handbills calling on the public not to shop after 4 p.m. on a Thursday. This went on for several Thursdays and crowds came to look on, and eventually to take part in the fun. Mounted policemen came to clear the way to the shop. Bill distributors dived under the horses' bellies to get through and hand out the bills. As was the custom in those days, boxes of eggs were displayed for sale outside the shop on the pavement. The horses got restless; one brought its forelegs down with a wallop on one of the egg boxes—and that did it. The crowd broke through in the confusion, got at the eggs, and plastered the shop front with them. Three bill distributors found themselves in Wormwood Scrubs. One of them, A. G. Maher, in 1905, became president of the Amalgamated Union.



FRIEND "WHY DONT YOU COME AND HAVE
A LITTLE RECREATION OLD MAN?"

ASSISTANT "THIS (CIGAR) IS THE ONLY RECREATION
I GET"

Chapter II

CLOSING LEGISLATION

To go through the annual reports of the Union from 1891 to 1946 is to review 56 years of almost continuous "closing" activities. The local shop workers exerted pressure by picketing recalcitrant or difficult shops. In this way as far back as 1892 Swansea shop assistants reported that they had gained 7 p.m. closing for four nights in the week. At the time of the formation of a "National Union" the idea of the compulsory closing of all shops by law had not been accepted as a policy. It was not until 1896 that the compulsory principle found such support as to become part of the programme of the Union and be framed as a Bill for introduction to the House of Commons. It was to be another three years, in 1899, before there was embodied in that Bill the proposal for a maximum working week of 60 hours including mealtimes for all shop workers.

With proposals for legislation the issue between the parties to the struggle crystallised. The request to the public to shop earlier thereafter disappears and the struggle enters upon the legislative field. Not that the other effort to get the shops closed by all manner of means ceases; that goes on and on through the years. But local strife was very wearing and very uncertain. The battles had to be fought over and over again. It only needed one man in one small shop to be nasty, ill-tempered or stubborn enough to keep open and then everyone else was forced to follow suit.

Probably only those who lived through those days can understand the bitterness there was between the protagonists of "voluntary" and "compulsory" early closing.

The chief body which favoured "voluntary" or "permissive" closing was the Early Closing Association formed in 1842. Its chairman was Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., afterwards Lord Avebury. The chief argument was that just as the Bank Holiday Act, introduced by their chairman,

though permissive, became in fact general, so would early closing of shops. Well, it didn't, as will be seen.

The E.C.A. had the support of the employers and were in a strong position financially. They gathered in the money from the shopkeepers, who sometimes obtained it by deductions from the assistants' wages, without their consent, be it observed. I will refer to this vicarious benevolence again. The E.C.A. held that "voluntaryism" was the only hope of success, and the Union held it was that which kept back the only positive remedy for the long hours, namely, "compulsory closing." Controversy raged over the years and took violent form at sundry meetings, both indoor and outdoor, and some were broken up.

The years of heated argument and strife reached their climax at a great meeting held in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly (the Piccadilly Hotel now occupies the site), in June, 1903. The meeting was organised by the London district council of the Union in support of Sir Charles Dilke's Bill. Lord Avebury sought and obtained the consent of the promoters to put his point of view and, of course, his supporters came with him. The meeting, which became known as "the battle of the Bills," was packed, noisy, and enthusiastic.

I have before me a vivacious account of that meeting written by Mary Macarthur, at that time a member of the executive committee of the Union, who had just left her home in Ayr and had come to London to taste life and to live—yes, and to help others to live also.

Margaret Bondfield moved the resolution in support of Sir Charles Dilke's Bill. Let me quote Mary Macarthur: "She seemed to take Avebury's Bill into both her hands and regard it in puzzled wonder. Calmly she held it at arm's length for the inspection of the audience; deliberately she pulled it to pieces; deftly she tore each piece to shreds, one could almost hear it cracking! I glanced half sympathetically at Lord Avebury sitting beside the speaker; his brow grew more and more lined as she proceeded, lower and lower sunk his chin on his chest. . . . She concluded her speech with a really magnificent peroration and amidst thunders of applause, defiantly declared that in the face of the fact that the hours of labour were damning many and

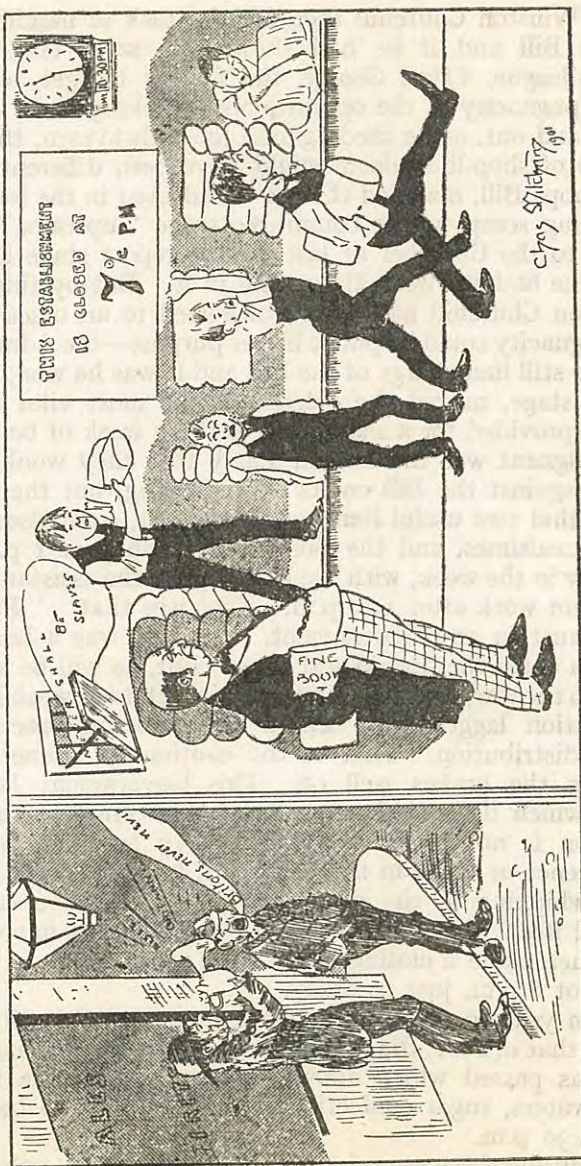
many a young life throughout the country, the Legislature would not offer anything better than Avebury's Bill, we would secure shorter hours without their aid."

Well, the meeting was a great success; it reflected the mind of the shop workers who thought upon the subject at all, and had a remarkably stimulating effect on the Movement throughout the country, for it was well reported. Shop hours became "news." The following year Lord Avebury's Bill became law. It was a complete failure. Shop workers had to wait until 1928 before Compulsory Closing became law, and in the meantime, they had to secure shorter hours for themselves without the aid of Parliament, as Miss Margaret Bondfield had prophetically foretold.

The admission of failure was responsible for Herbert Gladstone introducing a Bill based upon Sir Charles Dilke's Bill. It came before the House early in August, 1909, not to be proceeded with during that session, "but to promote discussion," which it most certainly did. Among other things it proposed a 60-hour week, exclusive of mealtimes. When the new Shops Bill was introduced by Herbert Gladstone "for discussion," meetings held in theatres and large halls everywhere, demanded one change in the Bill, the word "inclusive" of mealtimes to be substituted for "exclusive."

In October, 1909, in the pouring rain, a huge procession with bands and banners formed on the Thames Embankment and marched to Hyde Park, where 10,000 people listened to the speeches from four platforms. Mr. R. Harcourt, M.P., the private secretary to the Rt. Hon. Herbert Gladstone, said: "Put not your trust in any Government, stand first and last by your organisation." How very true was that exhortation to be. During the next year, two general elections burst upon the country, as the result of which Lloyd George got his land taxes and the Lords had their claws clipped. But in the course of the struggle, Herbert Gladstone was moved to the House of Lords, Sir Charles Dilke died, and Winston Churchill became Home Secretary, the most pugnacious Home Secretary the country has ever had.

OVERTIME—GRATIS



To Winston Churchill then fell the task of handling the Shops Bill and if he had shown the same tenacity as his colleague, Lloyd George, did for his Budget, and the same pugnacity to the oppositionist shopkeepers, in Parliament and out, as he used against the railwaymen, then the course of shop-life reform might have been different. For the Shops Bill, mangled though it had been in the long and wearying scrap in the committee stage "upstairs," came down to the Chamber at last for the report stage in 1911 with the 60-hour week clause still in it. But by this time, Winston Churchill had been transferred to an office where his pugnacity could be put to better purpose—the Admiralty. But he still had charge of the Bill and it was he who, on the report stage, moved the deletion of the most vital clause, which provided for a maximum working week of 60 hours. So indignant was the Labour Party that they would have voted against the Bill on its third reading, but the Union urged that two useful items were left in it, compulsory and fixed mealtimes, and the closing of the shop at 1 p.m. on one day in the week, with the half-day for the assistant, who must not work after 1.30 p.m. That was that. "Put not your trust in any Government. . . ." It was a lesson.

Then came the first World War. But, as will be shown, prior to the war, direct action to obtain a 48-hour week began. Legislation lagged well behind the common practice of retail distribution. That is the cautionary Home Office keeping the brakes well on. This Government Department which deals with shop legislation considers that its function is not to be a guide, not to lead the way in beneficence or to be in the vanguard, but to be well in the rear, whipping in the stragglers. This excessive caution showed itself when in 1916 the Home Secretary, in order to save fuel, made a closing order for 8 p.m., when he could have got 6 p.m. just as easily.

From year to year the Order was continued until 1928, except that in 1921, the year of the great slump, an amending Act was passed which allowed shops selling fresh fruits, table waters, sugar confectionery, and tobacco to be open until 9.30 p.m.

But during those years from 1914 to 1921, 6 p.m. voluntary

closing had remained fairly general, so that under the stress of bad trade and consequent cut-throat competition between traders, the thin voluntary strands which held them together snapped and the struggle to maintain the 6 p.m. closing became intense. In the Annual Report for 1922, the Union says: "The experience of the year has made more evident than ever before the need for a revision of the Shops Acts in such a way as to give power to local authorities to make orders for earlier closing than 7 p.m."

Subsequently, the "Select Committee on Shop Assistants" was unanimously to agree to this course and I introduced in the House of Commons without opposition a Bill to this effect in July, 1931. But that is as far as it ever got.

In 1927 a Departmental Committee reported to the House of Commons in favour of the war-time Orders being made into permanent legislation, following which the 1928 Act for the first time made compulsory shop closing at 8 p.m. a permanent part of our legislation. This was a far cry from the permissive Act of 1904, and from that day in 1896 when Sir Charles Dilke introduced the Union measure, and it was indeed so far behind realities that there was no rejoicing when it came into effect.

In 1930 the Labour Government appointed a "Select Committee on Shop Assistants" to inquire into the effects of a 48-hour week in shops. The Committee's final report was issued in September, 1931, and made some very important recommendations. But the Labour Government fell to the assassin's knife in 1931 and a "National"-cum-Tory Government reigned in its stead. However, under continuous pressure that Government brought in a Bill which operated some of the recommendations. The committee stage of this Bill was most interesting. The Union briefed each of its Labour Members. The National Union of Teachers called it a model of Parliamentary briefing, and the Labour Party Report that year stated "that there is no organisation in the Party, industrial or otherwise, which has ever done it since 1918 except the Shop Assistants' Union, and it was suggested that Unions could do a great deal when Bills concerning them are before the House by following in the footsteps of the Shop Assistants' Union."

This Act carried us still further upon the road. As briefly as possible this is what it lays down: a 48-hour week for those under eighteen; fourteen and fifteen, no overtime; sixteen to eighteen, 50 hours overtime allowed per year, to be worked during six weeks and not more than twelve hours a week. The Home Secretary has wide powers to



make necessary regulations. There must be a rest period of eleven hours, including the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., excepting in the case of boys of sixteen to eighteen employed in collection or delivery of milk, bread or newspapers, when the morning hour may be 5 a.m.

There are special arrangements for overtime working for the catering, motor and cycle accessories trades; a record

of working hours, meal intervals, and overtime must be kept in the prescribed manner.

The terms "shop" and "shop assistant" are widened so as to include practically everybody employed in connection with retail and wholesale trades. It is the duty of the shopkeeper to permit female assistants to use seats and a notice to that effect must be exhibited.

There must be provided and maintained suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, a reasonable temperature, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, lighting, and facilities for meals when taken on the premises. It is the duty of the sanitary authority for every district to enforce this part of the Act and it is the duty of the inspector under the Shops Act of 1912 to report, if necessary, to the sanitary authority.

An Act of 1936 extended the Shops Acts to "lending libraries" carried on for gain, another closed butchers' shops and stalls on Sundays, and another in the same year regulated Sunday trading.