

SHIPLEY DEATH OF MR. G. LIGHT

Prominent figure in the Labour world

The death occurred in St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, during the week-end, of Mr. George Light, chairman of Shipley Divisional Labour Party.

Mr. Light had lived at 10, Queen's Road, Shipley, and was 71 years of age.

He was chairman of the National Trade Union Club from 1944-48. Mr. Light was born in Hull and brought up in Bradford

where he began work in a textile mill at the age of 11. He led his first strike at 21 and was associated from his earliest years with the Labour and Trade Union movement. He was a close friend of Ben Tillett, Tom Mann and Arthur Greenwood.



Mr. George Light

He became a lecturer on industrial history and political science in the West Riding for the Workers' Educational Association. After a brief period in Birkenhead he was appointed staff lecturer in general history and economics for the Warwickshire County Council Education Committee.

A turning point in his life came in 1933 when he met Dr. Frank Buchman and the Oxford Group. What happened is best described in his own words. "Frank Buchman asked me to come and see him. I was out of a job as three millions of us were in England. We talked about the workless and unemployment. 'I've had guidance,' he said, 'to share with you the money I have.' He took out his bank book and asked me to look at it. I did. I am going to share that with you.' That statement left me speechless. He took his wallet from his coat pocket and emptied the contents on the table. Quickly he thrust into my hand one half of his entire financial resources, turned to go out of the room, and as he shook my hand said with a smile, 'We are both Socialists now'."

This incident made an unforgettable impression on him and he became a close friend and associate of Dr. Buchman, and worked with him in many different countries. In 1934 and 1936 he went to Canada and the United States where, at the suggestion of Dr. Buchman, he travelled 10,000 miles visiting unemployment camps and going as far north as the Arctic Circle.

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MRA PHILOSOPHY

The spectacle of 134m. unemployed in America drove him to the conclusion that selfishness was the basic problem in the world and that the philosophy of Moral Re-Armament was "the most fundamental and satisfying economic theory he had ever heard — when everyone cares enough and everyone shares enough, will not everyone have enough?"

Mr. Light took the chair at the luncheon in honour of Dr. Buchman at the National Trade Union Club in 1938 when the latter made his well-known speech, "Labour led by God can lead the world." He was elected chairman of the club in 1944 and in 1945 he revisited the United States where he had conversations with such leaders of American labour as William Green, James Carey and John L. Lewis.

Thousands of workers whom he addressed all over America warmly responded to his clear mind, his native wit and his obvious sincerity. On his return he expressed his conviction that the best representatives and interpreters of Britain to America were the MRA workers.

During his last years he lived in Shipley, and in July this year he travelled specially to London to work with the cast of the MRA play "The Vanishing Island." He lived in East London where he made and renewed many friendships, particularly in the civic and labour field.

He married Margaretta Currie, of Bradford, who survives him with two sons and a daughter.