

1925 to 1931 he and I shared the Parliamentary representation of Stockport between us. It seems strange to many people that a constituency should be represented by a Socialist and a Conservative. Logically, it would be thought that they would cancel one another out. There is, however, very much more in being a Member of Parliament than merely recording votes. Though Townend and I were not brought into that close association which a common party and contiguity of interests induced between Greenwood and myself, we nevertheless met regularly throughout six years and grew to understand each other. During the lifetime of the last Parliament, it seemed to me Townend became a little uncertain that the Socialist party was heading towards the right goal. The certainties of opposition became very much clouded over by the responsibilities of office. He could always put up a good case on a political platform and any doubt as to political objective was more than recompensed by an abundance of sympathy and regard for the misfortunes of the "under dog."

Townend was a conscientious representative, diligent in his attendance at the House of Commons and painstaking in all matters which affected the constituency. I was fortunate in having as an "opposite number" a man of such high moral standing in public life.

It would be invidious to attempt to chronicle all the driving forces that, in the past ten years, have kept the Conservative party at the forefront of affairs in Stockport. Certain names stand out. The late Dr. Murray, Alderman Green, Mr. Astle, Mrs. Collier, Alderman Sharples, Alderman McGregor—there are many more. It would require an article in itself to deal even inadequately with their great services to the town and the Party. Dr Murray lived for politics. In fair days or foul, guide, philosopher and friend. Alderman Green, shrewd, witty and wise, a tower of strength. Mr. Astle, apt, agile and understanding, steering the ship of affairs so as to avoid the prejudices of parochial politics coming in contact with the hard facts of national policy. Mrs. Collier, helpful and enthusiastic, marshalling her women's votes to magnificent victories. Alderman Sharples, cautious, prudent and dependable. Alderman McGregor, discreet, informed and painstaking.—These are the leaders of a panoply of names writ large across the political history of Stockport in the last ten years.

Here we are at the year 1932! Back to coalition—though two Conservatives represent Stockport in the House of Commons. The wheel has turned full circle; the coalition required to consolidate the victories of the war has given place to a new coalition—a coalition necessary to save us from the defeats of the peace.

What will the next decade bring?

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