

In 1925 came the lamented death of Mr. Greenwood, and the bye-election in which Mr. Townend, the nominee of the Railway Clerks' Association—of which he is an official—as well as of the local Labour party, succeeded, at his third attempt, in winning one of the seats. His opponents on this occasion were Mr. Tom Eastham, the Manchester barrister, who defended the seat for the Conservative party, and Mr. Fildes.

Now, after five elections in six years, Stockport was relieved of the rigours and excitements of a national campaign for nearly four years. The next election was that of 1929, when the swing of the political pendulum brought the Labour party into uneasy office. Mr. Hammersley retained his seat, though he received 913 fewer votes than Mr. Townend. This election was notable for the remarkable fight made by the second Conservative candidate, Mr. E. N. Barker, a London business-man, who, entirely unknown, came into the constituency some ten days before the election day and rolled 22,047 votes.

Captain A. V. G. Dower, of London, an ex-Army officer, and an enthusiastic young politician, came into the constituency as a second prospective Conservative candidate in August, 1930, and quickly found favour with the leaders and rank and file of the party. When the national crisis arose in the autumn of 1931, and the electorate was called upon to choose between a National and a Socialist Government, Captain Dower's ready grasp of the political questions before the country, allied with a great personal popularity, helped him to achieve, with Mr. Hammersley, a remarkable success at his first attempt. He polled no fewer than 47,757 votes, and Mr. Hammersley topped the poll with 50,936, a record for the constituency. Thus for the first time since 1924, Stockport is represented by two Conservative Members.

The election figures for the last ten years are given below:—

<b>November 15th, 1922.</b>		<b>September 17th, 1925</b> (bye-election caused by the death of Mr. Wm. Greenwood).	
	Votes.		
Fildes, Henry .....(L)	35241	Townend, Arnold E. ....(Lab.)	20219
Greenwood, William .....(C)	33852	Eastham, Tom .....(C)	17892
Perry, S. F. ....(Co-op.)	17059	Fildes, Henry .....(L)	17296
Robinson, J. C. H. ....(Lab.)	16126		
<b>December 6th, 1923.</b>		<b>May 31st, 1929.</b>	
Greenwood, William .....(C)	20308	Townend, Arnold E. ....(Lab.)	30955
Royle, Charles .....(L)	19223	Hammersley, S. S. ....(C)	29042
Hammersley, S. S. ....(C)	18129	Fildes, Henry .....(L)	22595
Fildes, Henry .....(L)	16756	Barker, E. N. ....(C)	22047
Townend, Arnold E. ....(Lab.)	16340	Royle, C. ....(Ind. L.)	8355
<b>October 29th, 1924.</b>		<b>October 27th, 1931.</b>	
Greenwood, William .....(C)	28057	Hammersley, S. S. ....(Nat. C.)	50936
Hammersley, S. S. ....(C)	26417	Dower, A. V. G. ....(Nat. C.)	47757
Townend, Arnold E. ....(Lab.)	21986	Townend, A. E. ....(Lab.)	23350
Royle, Charles .....(L)	12386	Abbott, J. T. ....(I.L.P.)	15591

Locally the town has remained predominantly Conservative during the ten years. The Conservative party's numerical strength in the Council is much the same as it was in 1922 and it continues to control municipal affairs. In 1922 there were 38 Conservative members in the Council. This