

I. W.P.W.: IN DEEDS AND WORDS

Will himself commended this synopsis for its accuracy and, I would guess, for its modesty which still cannot obscure the unique distinction of his career.

"William Pascoe Watkins was born in 1893 at Plymouth, England, the son of a national leader of the British Co-operative Movement. He made his first Co-operative studies in classes organised by the Plymouth Co-operative Society, of which he became a member at the age of 16. As his father's constant companion, he attended Co-operative meetings of all kinds, made the acquaintance of Greening, Blandford, Vivian and other founders of the ICA, and visited the workers' productive and consumers' societies of Paris in 1909 with a party conducted by H.J. May.

He trained as a teacher and obtained his degree from London University in philosophy and economics. During three years' war service in France, he renewed acquaintance with the French Consumers' Co-operative Movements. On re-entering civil life he took up a research scholarship jointly offered by the Co-operative College, Manchester, and the Co-operative Reference Library, Dublin to study the relations of Consumers' and Agricultural Co-operation in the United Kingdom.

In April 1920 W.P. Watkins was appointed to the tutorial staff of the Co-operative College, with responsibility for courses in Economics, Economics of Co-operation and International Co-operation. His first book, a translation of Ernest Poisson's *La République Cooperative*, was published by the Co-operative Union in 1925. He subsequently planned and wrote jointly with Professor Fred Hall the volume on the history, principles and organisation of the British Co-operative Movement which was the Co-operative Union's official text-book for twenty-five years.

In 1929 W.P. Watkins was recruited by H.J. May to the Secretariat of the ICA to assist in editing its publications and to direct the International Co-operative School. From 1940 to 1946 he worked on the editorial staff of Reynolds News, the weekly newspaper of the Co-operative Press Ltd., which he left in 1946 on his appointment as Adviser on Co-operative Movements to the British Element of the Control Commission for Germany.

As an intermediary between the Co-operative Organisations and the Military Government he was able to assist the rehabilitation of the Consumers' Co-operatives, the restitution of their property, the reconstitution of their central federations, as well as the re-establishment of the central Co-operative bank, Deutsche Genossenschaftskasse. In 1951, a few months after the end of his mission in Germany, he was appointed Director of the International Co-operative Alliance in succession to Thorsten Odhe, serving twelve years and retiring in 1963.

The Federal German Republic honoured his work for and continued interest in Co-operation in Germany by awarding him the Great Cross of Merit in 1959.

A teacher of Co-operation with voice and pen throughout his career, W.P. Watkins has delivered the Greening, Blandford and Hodgson Pratt memorial lectures and written numerous review articles and pamphlets. Since his retirement he has carried out assignments for ILO and OECD, besides editing for the ICA the volume Co-operation in European Marketing Economies and acting as rapporteur to the Commission on Co-operative Principles. Previously to writing the history of the Alliance, he had produced a volume on the International Co-operative Movement for the Deutsche Genossenschaftskasse, published in German in February 1969."

Books, Pamphlets and Lectures

Books

The Co-operative Republic by Ernest Poisson
Translated from the French. Co-operative Union, 1925.

Co-operation. Jointly with Fred Hall, Co-operative Union, 1935.

Co-operation in the European Market Economies.
Edited and translated French and German articles.
For ILO, FAO, ICA and IFAP 1964.

The International Co-operative Movement. First published in German. Translated into Swedish

by Stolpe. Revised edition in English (1976), Spanish and Japanese (1979).

International Co-operative Alliance, 1895-1970
I.C.A. 1970.

Pamphlets

International Co-operative Education. For
Education Conference, Vienna 1939. I.C.A.

Adult Education for Co-operators. Lecture for
Joint Education Committee of London Co-operative
Societies, 1943.

Pattern for Progress. For Second Century
Group, 1945.

Co-operative Home-building. Co-operative Build-
ing Society, 1944.

Co-operative Store-keeping. London Co-operative
Society and Co-operative Union, 1946.

I.C.A. Congress Papers

Co-operative Development in Under-developed
Countries, 1953.

The Long-term Program of Co-operative Promotion
1963.

Report of Commission on Co-operative Principles,
1966.

Lectures

Rochdale Pioneers Centenary. Morecambe Educational Convention, 1944.

Blandford Memorial

Greening Memorial

Hodgson Pratt Memorial (twice)

More Pamphlets

Co-operation in the Coal-mining Industry
(jointly with A.C. Stewart) Co-operative Party,
1950

Das wahre Wesen der Genossenschaft (The true
nature of Co-operation) for Konsumverband
Vienna, 1948.