

## CONSERVATISM AT DENHOLME

### The Socialist differences

The picturesque grounds of Bracken Hill, Denholme, home of Mr. F. W. Delves, chairman of the Denholme branch of the Conservative Association, was the scene of a successful garden party on Saturday, organised by members of the Denholme branch of the Conservative Association in aid of branch funds. The opening ceremony was performed by Major Hugh Dixon and Mr. Delves was the chairman.

In an address in the afternoon Brig.-Gen. A. M. Ramsden, prospective Conservative candidate for Leeds Central, said we were once again threatened with the possibility of a great world war, and he was quite sure we should avoid it only by remaining firm and true to our principles and by standing up for freedom, democracy, and freedom of speech.

### COMMUNIST INFLUENCE

Of the Socialist Government he said he thought how handicapped must be the Prime Minister and Mr. Bevin by the division within their own ranks, and how handicapped they must be by men such as Mr. Zilliacus, who was taking the part not of this country but the part of the Russians and the Communists. In 1945 the Socialist Party said: "It is only we who can secure friendship with Russia." But they had now to give consideration to such things as the London Dock strike and there was some connection between the two. The Communists were very good with their timing. They were trying to cause trouble in London and at the same time they were fomenting strife abroad.

We were now facing the gravest international situation with which this country had been confronted since the war. We found at the moment that we were living on a lower standard than at any time during the war. We found, too, that rules and regulations had been imposed at the rate of one every three hours, day and night, during the past three years.

### LIVING ON CHARITY

Brig. Ramsden said we could look on a higher burden of taxation than this country had ever known before. What we really wanted was a Government that could live within its own income and without much of ours. He believed that at present we were living on the charity of another nation—and that after three years of Socialist government. But he did not believe that the country was either down or out. This was indicated by the fact that so many youngsters in this country were taking an interest in politics and in particular in the Young Conservative movement. In only two years the movement in Yorkshire had grown from 88 branches to 233 branches with a membership of over 14,000.

Brig. Ramsden said the Conservative Party looked forward to the building in this country of a better state of society. Socialists stood for the vesting of all property and power of influence in the State, but the Conservatives had an alternative to that. They wanted in this country a balanced system of society with a purpose, a system in which there was the widest possible distribution of responsibility and power and property. Instead of seeing all power and interest vested in one vast machine let it be spread among the people. They wanted to encourage the people to own their own houses and to take an interest in business and to have some say in the management of that business.

Mr. A. W. Tack, prospective Conservative candidate for Keighley, proposed a vote of thanks to Brig. Ramsden, Mr. Delves, and Major Dixon. He said the Conservative policy could be described as a four-square policy. In one corner was their desire to restore liberty to freedom-loving people, in the second was their industrial charter, in the third their agricultural charter, and in the fourth corner was their housing policy.

Mr. Butterfield seconded the vote of thanks.

The event was well attended and the guests took part in the usual garden games, including croquet, putting, pin tables and competitions. A display of archery was given by Mr. T. Kelly, of Bradford, who holds the "Scottish Arrow" for archery.