

### **The *Fraternelle* and the *Cité Guesdon***

The *Fraternelle* was located in the building at no. 27 avenue Secrétan, which adjoined the *cité Guesdon*.

Founded in the heart of the housing estates at the factory's initiative in 1899, the *Fraternelle* was a consumption and production cooperative for its employees. The number of members went from around a hundred in 1900 to 600 in 1930, so that an annex was opened in the *cités Blanches* on the rue des Escalettes.

The cooperative offered the products necessary to families' lives at a reduced price: groceries, bread, coffee, wine, meat, haberdashery, lingerie, shoes, fabric, cleaning products, coal. It freed workers from being dependent on shops, but it could also increase their dependency on the factory itself, and be used to justify their low wages.

The *Fraternelle* opened up a library; its community centre (the building that is set back on the left) held some of the first screenings of silent films, as well as public meetings.

#### Legend

The building of *La Fraternelle* is recognisable at no. 27 avenue Secrétan, Ville de Dives-sur-Mer collection, digitised by Fabrique de Patrimoines en Normandie.

#### Legend

*La Fraternelle* aluminium money-chip, Pierre Coftier collection.

#### Legend

Adjoining the cooperative, the *cité Guesdon*, which was purchased by the factory in 1920, consisted of seven workers' lodgings which were accessible via a passage between two houses reserved for the foremen. Pierre Coftier collection.

#### Legend

Banquet in the function room of *La Fraternelle*, the motto of which was "All for each, each for all". Photograph, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ville de Dives-sur-Mer collection, digitised by Fabrique de Patrimoines en Normandie.