

THE BRITISH WORKER

OFFICIAL STRIKE NEWS BULLETIN

Published by The General Council of the Trades Union Congress

No. 1.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 5, 1926.

PRICE ONE PENNY

IN LONDON AND THE SOUTH

Splendid Loyalty of
Transport Workers

EVERY DOCKER OUT

"London dock workers are absolutely splendid," said an official of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

"So far as they are concerned, it is a 100 per cent. strike. There is no trouble and everything is going smoothly."

POLICE HELP REFUSED

At Swindon the railwaymen are obeying Mr. Cramp's injunction to remain steady and to preserve order. The Great Western works are, of course, closed, and no trains are running.

It was stated at a mass meeting of the N.U.R. that Mr. Collett (the

The General Council suggests that in all districts where large numbers of workers are idle sports should be organised and entertainments arranged.

This will both keep a number of people busy and provide amusement for many more.

chief mechanical engineer) had declined the offer of the police and the military to guard the railway works, saying he could rely on the strikers to preserve law and order.

Railway workshops at Wolverton, Crewe, and elsewhere are closed.

CHANNEL SERVICES

At Dover the whole of the tramways staff are out. The cross-Channel boat service is greatly curtailed, and a large number of passengers are awaiting the opportunity to cross.

NOT ENOUGH!

From 2½ to 3 million workers have ceased work.

The Government announced by yesterday's wireless that 30,000 volunteers had registered, expressing willingness to take the strikers' places. It doesn't seem enough!

WONDERFUL RESPONSE TO THE CALL

General Council's Message: Stand Firm and Keep Order

The workers' response has exceeded all expectations. The first day of the great General Strike is over. They have manifested their determination and unity to the whole world. They have resolved that the attempt of the mineowners to starve three million men, women and children into submission shall not succeed.

All the essential industries and all the transport services have been brought to a standstill. The only exception is that the distribution of milk and food has been permitted to continue. The Trades Union General Council is not making war on the people. It is anxious that the ordinary members of the public shall not be penalised for the unpatriotic conduct of the mineowners and the Government.

Never have the workers responded with greater enthusiasm to the call of their leaders. The only difficulty that the General Council is experiencing, in fact, is in persuading those workers in the second line of defence to continue at work until the withdrawal of their labour may be needed.

WORKERS' QUIET DIGNITY

The conduct of the trade unionists, too, constitutes a credit to the whole movement. Despite the presence of armed police and the military, the workers have preserved a quiet orderliness and dignity, which the General Council urges them to maintain, even in the face of the temptation and provocation which the Government is placing in their path.

To the unemployed, also, the General Council would address an earnest appeal. In the present fight there are two sides only—the workers on the one hand and those who are against them on the other.

Every unemployed man or woman who "blacklegs" on any job offered by employers or the authorities is merely helping to bring down the standard of living for the workers as a whole, and to create a resultant situation in which the number of unemployed must be greater than ever.

The General Council is confident that the unemployed will realise how closely their interests are involved in a successful issue to the greatest battle ever fought by the workers of the country in the defence of the right to live by work.

MESSAGE TO ALL WORKERS.

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress wishes to emphasise the fact that this is an industrial dispute. It expects every member taking part to be exemplary in his conduct and not to give any opportunity for police interference. The outbreak of any disturbances would be very damaging to the prospects of a successful termination to the dispute.

The Council asks pickets especially to avoid obstruction and to confine themselves strictly to their legitimate duties.

SOUTH WALES IS SOLID!

Not a Wheel Turning in
Allied Industries

'MEN ARE SPLENDID!'

Throughout South Wales the stoppage is complete, and everywhere the men are loyally observing the orders of the T.U.C. to refrain from any conduct likely to lead to disturbance.

So unanimous has been the response to the call of the leaders, that not a wheel is turning in the industries affiliated to the T.U.C.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

Complete standstill of industries in the eastern valleys. Absolute unanimity prevails among the rank and file of the affiliated unions, and not a single wheel is turning in the allied industries.

Monmouth Education Authority—which has a majority of Labour representatives—has arranged to feed the school children where required,

ABERDARE VALLEY

All railway and bus services are at a standstill. The miners' attitude indicates that they are absolutely loyal to the advice of their leaders to refrain from anything in the nature of riotous behaviour.

NEATH

The workers have unanimously responded to the call in support of the miners, and the stoppage is complete.

With one exception, safety men are remaining at their posts.

The behaviour of the men is splendid.

AMMAN VALLEY

Every industry and almost the entire transport services are at a standstill at Ammanford and throughout the populous Amman Valley.

GLAMORGANSHIRE

The men are obeying implicitly the instructions of their leaders not to create any disturbance. Crowded meetings of miners have registered their unanimous intention to stand by the T.U.C.

ABERTRIDWR

At the Windsor Colliery, Abertridwr, a deputation of the men and the management met and agreed to safety men being allowed to work.

A Trades Council, composed solely of branches affiliated to the T.U.C., has been formed to act as a Lock-out Committee for Abertridwr and Senghenydd.

PORT TALBOT

Perfect order is being maintained at Port Talbot, where all the industries are shut down.

NEW EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Forces to Maintain Vital Services

"JIX'S" FOUR ORDERS

Speaking in the House of Commons yesterday, when moving the regulations under the Emergency Powers Act, Sir W. Joynson-Hicks said that Regulation 24 gave to the Home Secretary power to direct that in services of vital necessities the forces of the Crown might be called in to assist in carrying on those services.

He had accordingly made four orders, directing that the supply of electricity, the maintenance of electrical and mechanical plant and machinery of the Port of London, transport and motor spirit, and the continuance of the railway service were "vital necessities."

The Home Secretary said he did not desire to minimise the fact that the country was in a very serious position.

In regard to the regulations prohibiting public meetings, the Home Secretary said it would be enforced if there was reason to believe that disorder would arise from the holding of the meetings.

RUGBY'S FINE RESPONSE

Far Beyond Highest Expectations Says Strike Chairman

Rugby's response to the strike call was magnificent—far beyond the highest expectations, says Mr. Taylor, chairman of the Rugby Strike Committee.

The railwaymen are all out, and 80 per cent. of the railway clerks have left work. All the wagon-builders came out at once, including 12 non-union men.

The building trades are 100 per cent. out, and the printing trades 95 per cent. The boilermakers came out in sympathy, and it is with difficulty that the engineering trades are kept at work.

ALL OUT FOR ORDER

Unions and Authorities in Co-operation

The early stages of the trouble in Nottingham were marked by complete understanding between the authorities and the union representatives, as a result of the latter approaching the Mayor and the Chief Constable.

Accordingly, there is to be co-operation in the distribution of food and coal. Further, the Government district representative will co-operate with the Transport Workers' Organisation, the secretary of which, Councillor Barsby, stated that there is complete stoppage.

"On all fronts we have decided," said Councillor Barsby, "to act with the authorities for the preservation of order. The Chief Constable welcomed us, for he appreciates that the irresponsible element is to blame for any disorder that has occurred."

ALL STANDING STILL

Throughout Monmouthshire Eastern Valleys all industries are standing still. No train services are running. Miners' mass meetings, at which the situation is discussed are being held privately in various centres.

BLACKBURN FIRM

In Blackburn the railwaymen are still solid. A few trams are being run by inspectors.

"MACHINE IS WORKING EFFICIENTLY"

—T.U.C. OFFICIAL

"Expectations Exceeded": Assuring Messages From Abroad

"AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE"

"All reports we have had to-day go to show that there is the same solidarity and unanimity as on the first day of the strike."

This report was officially given on behalf of the General Council of the T.U.C.

Mr. Pulton, who made the statement added: "The machine is working in a manner that has exceeded our expectations, despite any statements that may be made to the contrary by other parties."

"The Council has increased a number of sub-committees to deal with the general organisation, and it is satisfied, from the evidence to hand, that the machine it has had to set up very rapidly is operating efficiently, and that the men and women who are in the fighting line are standing solidly together."

"We have had a report that the Government has only been able to produce less than half the number of copies of the official newspaper that was originally arranged for."

"As showing the feeling in the country, a resolution has been passed by the Primitive Methodist Hull District Synod appealing to the Government to take temporary control of the working of the coal mines and to proceed to reorganise the coal industry on the lines recommended by the Royal Commission pending a resumption of the negotiations on the basis of such reorganisation."

"The resolution also protests strongly against any proposal to abolish the seven-hour day without the consent of the miners, and affirms the principle of a national minimum wage."

"We have had resolutions from the French Confederation, from the Dutch Federation, the American Federation of Labour, the Canadian Federation and the Irish Labour Movement, and also the International Transport Workers, expressing not only good wishes but offering to do all they can to bring the matter to a successful issue."

"The Transport Workers abroad have called upon the unions not to shift any coal to England nor to coal vessels which normally would take coal to England. We have had messages from Germany, particularly the mining districts, assuring us that the German workers are behind us."

"The General Council wish to emphasise the fact that in all the instructions they have sent out to the unions on questions of organisation, discipline and finance, it is made clear that this is essentially an industrial dispute."

"The Council have issued very explicit instructions to all trade union members taking part that they must be exemplary in their conduct and give no opportunity for any police interference. They have also issued instructions to the pickets that they must avoid obstruction and confine themselves strictly to their duties and act in a constitutional manner."

WHOLESALE COMPLIANCE

Replying to questions, Mr. Poulton said there was no official information at present that any new negotiations or conversations were taking place between the T.U.C. and the Government.

So far as the Council were concerned, they had not applied for any

credit to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, but local unions might have entered into arrangement.

Nothing had yet been decided as to an extension of the strike or the calling out of the "Second line of defence." This meant the unions not included in the first schedule. The matter was at present under consideration.

So far as the electricity supply was concerned, there were difficulties, especially in regard to distribution, and the unions concerned had been asked to formulate a policy in relation to power and light. They had not yet officially arrived at a well-defined policy.

The question of extending the stoppage to the Post Office telegraphs and mails had not yet been officially before the Council. There had never been anything like such a general closing down of the railways as at present existed. There had been wholesale compliance with the Council's order by the three railway unions, and resolutions were pouring into the offices from all quarters giving enthusiastic support to the policy of the Council.

CAMOUFLAGE

Some of the statements issued by the railway companies were, he declared, mere camouflage.

With regard to any new negotiations, Mr. Poulton said the Government ended the discussions, and the last statement of the General Council was that the door was still open so far as they were concerned.

NEWS FROM WEARISIDE

All Reported Quiet in Colliery Districts

All is quiet in the colliery districts round Sunderland, where the printers have joined in.

Only three or four trains ran from Sunderland yesterday, and they carried very few passengers.

Several private buses were induced to stop on their journeys, and in some cases the passengers were obliged to finish their journey on foot.

BANNED TRAMS SCENE

An unsuccessful attempt was made shortly after four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon to run L.C.O. trams from the Camberwell depot.

Earlier in the day two lorries with higher officials of the Tramways Department and O.M.S. recruits, arrived at the depot, where a strong force of police had been posted.

A large crowd, including tramwaymen, their wives and sympathisers, collected, and when the first car came out of the depot gates in Camberwell Green there was a hostile demonstration.

Some arrests were made. Following this incident the cars were driven back to the depot to the accompaniment of loud cheers.

PRIVATE WHEELS STOP

On the representation of the unions, private bus owners running between Coalville and Leicester have decided to cease running after Wednesday night.

SOLID IN LANCs

Bolton reports that workers in Lancashire and Cheshire are absolutely solid.

STRIKE HITS THE COMMONS

Sitting Lasts for Less Than Three Hours

KIRKWOOD THERE

The House of Commons sat for little over 2½ hours on Tuesday. Although road transport had been arranged for members, none seemed inclined to stay in the Chamber a moment longer than was necessary.

After the exciting hours of the previous sitting, the legislators got on with the business as quietly and as rapidly as Parliamentary machinery would permit.

Even Mr. Kirkwood, whose interjections are a feature at question time (and whose presence on the Labour benches gave the lie to a persistent rumour that he had been arrested) sat silent with his arms folded.

HANSARD HARD HIT

Owing to the printing hold-up only a few members had Order Papers. Hansard, too, had been badly hit, and only about 20 printed copies were in the House.

The Speaker suggested that members should abstain during the next few days from putting down questions other than those of extreme urgency, which could be dealt with by private notice.

The Prime Minister announced that private members' time on Wednesdays, May 5, 12, and 19, and Fridays, May 7, 14, and 21 would have to be sacrificed, as Government business must take precedence.

E. P. DEBATE

The Budget resolutions were then voted on without debate.

Mr. Churchill intimated that there would still be an opportunity to debate the issues involved at a later stage of the Budget's progress through Parliament.

When the House wearied of dividing, resolutions were decided on the voices. But the last item, dealing with the raid on the Road Fund, was challenged by a hasty "No!" from the Labour benches.

And so the final division followed, the Government, of course, carrying the day by a large majority.

CRISIS WOULD RECUR

The mineowners proposed drastic reductions in wages and an increase of working hours.

That is no solution of the problem. Their action would be followed by similar action on the part of employers in other coal-producing countries. The effect of the proposed sacrifices would thus be neutralised, and the present crisis would recur within a very short period. In the meantime, the roots of the problem would remain untouched. . . .

To talk of reorganisation and stabilisation side by side with the owners' proposals is a consummate farce.

—Miners' Federation statement to the Conference of Trade Unions last week.

O.M.S. PRESSURE ON STUDENTS

Story of Promise That Made Them Enrol

QUESTION IN HOUSE

The following statement by a student of University College, London, was made yesterday to a representative of the "British Worker".—

"I should like you to give publicity to what has happened at the College, and to expose the mean methods employed to induce the students to enrol in the O.M.S. and fight the workers.

"Arriving at college on Monday, I was surprised to find O.M.S. activities in full swing, and the reason became evident when a meeting of all students was called by the Provost, Sir Gregory Foster, and the college secretary, Dr. W. Seton, who is also one of the founders of the O.M.S.

"Both these men enjoy an immense popularity with the students, and did not hesitate to take advantage of it. The meeting began with a declaration of its non-political nature, but they made an appeal to the students to support the Government, and finally insisted on the necessity of everyone immediately joining the O.M.S.

"As a bait to loyal students, their services would be remembered and taken into consideration during examinations. This promise drew many recruits, a great many of whom feared victimisation by university authorities if they failed to enrol in support of the Government."

A question will be asked about this in the House of Commons.

TEACHERS' SUPPORT

A telegram has been sent by the International Federation of Officials and Elementary School Teachers, meeting in Geneva, expressing sympathy with the British miners.

U.S. LABOUR SUPPORT

The American Federation of Labour, through its President, William Green, declares its belief in the justice of the British miners' claim to a decent living wage.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYMEN

Unity House,
Euston Road, London, N.W.1

5th May, 1926

MINERS' CRISIS.

"Heartly congratulations to our members on their splendid response to the call for action. We are proud to be in the very front line of the workers' battle. You must handle no traffic of any kind, food stuffs or otherwise. Stand all together for the achievement of victory."

C. T. CRAMP,

National Union of Railwaymen.

MINERS STAND FIRM FOR VICTORY

Message From Lock-Out Areas: Fight Against Wage Reductions

From all the mining areas the report is: "We stand solid for victory." The Executive of the Miners' Federation remains in session in London.

The dramatic developments since the lock-out began and the fine response to the strike order by other unions have been received with enthusiasm by the million miners about whose wages and conditions the crisis has arisen.

And it is those wages and conditions which will have to be decided as the central issue in the struggle when the Government and the mineowners are prepared to reason. Let us recall the facts of the position.

WHAT THE OWNERS DEMAND

A crisis arose last July because the mineowners demanded wage reductions and an increase of working hours.

Then, as now the Trade Union Movement stood behind the miners, and the crisis was staved off by the Government granting a subsidy for nine months. Wages and hours were maintained as before, and a Royal Commission was appointed to report on the measures necessary to deal with the position in this basic industry.

The Commission's report was published on March 10. It contained proposals for the State ownership of minerals, proposals for reform, and suggestions for the negotiation of wages.

The Government undertook to carry out the provisions requiring State action, provided the other parties accepted the report.

The mineowners on April 1 stated their attitude, which was a vague acceptance of some proposals, and, contrary to the recommendations, proposed district negotiations on wages and indicated that they required heavy reductions.

The miners presented their reply on April 13, but at once a deadlock occurred over the owners' attitude on wages.

Next day the owners took steps to post lock-out notices, with particulars of drastic wage reductions and proposals for longer hours.

METHODISTS' SUPPORT

The Primitive Methodists of the Hull District Synod, meeting at Driffield, passed a resolution appealing to the Government to take temporary control of coal mines and to reorganise the industry on the lines recommended by the Royal Commission of 1925, pending the resumption of negotiations on the basis of such organisation. The resolution also supported the seven-hour day for miners and the principle of a national minimum wage.

IRELAND'S OFFER

Offers of support for the British workers in their struggle are being received from their comrades across the Irish Channel. Tom Johnson, secretary of the Irish Trades Union Congress, sends the following wire: "If Irish trade unionists can render any assistance, please communicate Johnson."

CALL TO SAILORS

It is reported from Liverpool that the Sailors' and Firemen's Union has called men off all the ships.

The Prime Minister intervened without effect. The miners were acting in concert with the Trades Union Congress General Council and in close consultation with that body.

The essential position remained unchanged until the afternoon of April 30, when the Prime Minister conveyed to the miners new terms, which were:—

A reduction in the minimum percentage to 20 per cent. above 1914, instead of the existing 33 1-3 per cent., on condition that the working hours should be extended from seven to eight per day for at least three and a half years.

By this time the lock-out for many thousands of miners had actually begun. The miners' delegates unanimously rejected the proposals, and their representatives and the T.U.C. General Council urged the Premier to have the lock-out notices withdrawn in order that negotiations might be continued.

Subsequent events left the mining dispute unchanged, and the position is that, on the basis of the present working hours, the owners' demands are exactly what they were when the deadlock first arose.

The Miners' Federation has prepared a table showing what the demands would mean for representative classes of mineworkers, and these are set out on Page Six.

JAPAN SAYS, "FIGHT ON!"

The Japanese Trade Union Movement has cabled an exhortation to British trade unionists, urging them to "fight to the last." The leading Labour bodies in Japan are considering the question of giving active support to the British workers.

"EMERGENCY" SENTENCE

The first prosecution at Manchester under the Emergency Regulations, 1926, was that of William Richard Stoker, aged 40 years, of Ringway, who was sent to prison for two months in the second division for attempting to do "an act calculated to cause disaffection among the forces." The police stated his car was ready to take "seditious" literature to Glasgow.

LABOUR BOYCOTT

The Labour Party on the London County Council has refused to nominate representatives on the Council's Emergency Committee for the maintenance of London public services.

REAL EXAMPLE IN SELF-DENIAL

Workers' Sacrifice to Aid Their Comrades

5/- WEEKLY LEVY

The news of a fine example of self-denial comes from the Union of Operative Heating and Domestic Engineers.

The members within the scope of the strike corps have given a pledge to withdraw their labour without delay, while their comrades who remain at work have decided to levy themselves 5s. per member per week so long as the dispute continues.

The members of the Poor Law Officers' Union have also offered to levy themselves in support of the strikers.

ITEMS FROM WALES

A joint Strike Committee is in continuous session at Newport, where only the electric and gas services remain unaffected at present.

All work at the factories and docks is suspended, as are tramways and buses. One train arrives each day with food supplies.

There is no question about the solidarity of the workers and with their determination to continue the struggle.

Nowhere could the strike call have been more heartily responded to than in the Tredegar area and throughout the Sirhowy Valley, where normally 20,000 miners are at work.

On the railway, even the station masters, who had never before been involved in a strike, left their offices.

Milk supplies have to be brought by motor from agricultural areas as far, in some cases, as 50 miles away.

Huge gatherings of men have been addressed by George Davies, the miners' agent, who has impressed on them the necessity of preserving perfect order.

The workers are determined and are facing the situation in excellent spirit.

INDIA WISHES SUCCESS

The All-India Trades Union Congress has cabled to the British Trades Union Congress expressing the Indian workers' sympathy and wishes for the success of the strike, and offering co-operation in this "great fight for the maintenance of the standard of life."

RAILWAY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION

The President and General Secretary send greetings and congratulations to all Members.

The request of the Executive Committee has evoked a magnificent display of solidarity.

Reports from all districts show that R.C.A. men of all grades are standing four square with their fellow-workers in the present epic struggle to prevent the imposition of degrading conditions upon the Miners and their wives and children, and the weakening of the whole Trade Union Movement. This morning's messages are in splendid spirit.

Members are enjoined to continue contact with the Local Joint Committees of Railway and Transport Unions, and to maintain unimpaired the fine position they have established.

Stand Firm and True.

R.C.A. Head Office, Euston Road, London,
5th May, 1926.

An Explanation of Our Existence

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The **British Worker** is being produced by the supreme authority on the Industrial side of the British Labour Movement. The General Council of the Trades Union Congress consider it imperative that they should have an organ for the spread of information about the Strike and to keep the public aware of all that is happening.

The Cabinet have brought out a newspaper which is crudely biased and unfair to the Workers. Of that the General Council do not complain. But they feel that they would be doing less than their duty if they did not at once reply to this move by issuing a bulletin which will give the Labour Movement and the rest of the Nation a true record of events, as they occur from day to day, and a true account of the causes, as well as the progress, of the General Strike.

The **British Worker** is produced by Union labour throughout. All those engaged in its production are detailed for their

duties by the General Council. In this it has the advantage over the Cabinet newspaper, which is brought out by strike-breaking labour in every department.

It is the duty of everyone belonging to the Labour Movement, or wishing it well, to help the General Council to give **The British Worker** the widest possible circulation.

All into whose hands it comes should pass it on as soon as they have read it, or, better still, post it up for others to read.

Thus the Workers will be correctly informed as to the progress of the greatest industrial effort which has ever been made in this or any other country. So far as the latest news indicates, the call to leave work has everywhere been responded to with marvellous solidarity. **The British Worker**, if all do their part in helping to circulate it, will be of the greatest value in keeping up that solidarity and securing the objects for which it is being so magnificently demonstrated.

WE HAVE NOT CHOSEN LIGHTLY

By "TOMFOOL," of the "Daily Herald"

We have not chosen lightly. Let none think

It is for any man an easy thing To lead his women to starvation's brink

Or face for his own children suffering.

We have not chosen lightly. We have homes

We strive to keep together full of fear;

No rich man who through his great portal comes

And goes securely, holds his home more dear.

We have not chosen lightly. We have hearts,

And love our own in words we cannot tell;

But no rich man in whom quick feeling starts

At his child's coming, loves his own more well.

We have not chosen lightly. Let the ranks

Who from their birth wore fortune's diadem

Look on their homes and loved ones, and give thanks

That Life has never forced this choice on them.

DEPTFORD'S ALL OUT

Deptford's latest report is:—All tram and bus men are out solid; all dock workers are out solid; engineers are all out solid. The Deptford and Greenwich Trades Council says it is extremely pleased with the position.

HUDDERSFIELD OUT

"Stoppage of workers of all unions implicated practically complete" is the message from Huddersfield. The tramway and bus services are at a standstill, and transport pickets have induced a number of non-unionists in private buses to stop work. Textile mills are open as usual, but are expected to go on three days a week.

DERBY BRIGHTS

There are 25,000 out at Derby, the number having been swelled by members of the Engineering and Foundry Workers' Union. Not the slightest disorder has occurred.

H. SMITH AND A. J. COOK

Mr. Herbert Smith, president of the Miners' Federation, and Mr. A. J. Cook, secretary of the Federation, were present during the debate at the House of Commons yesterday.

LEYLAND STRIKE

All the men of the English Electric Company, Preston, and also the Leyland motors men have struck work.

BUILDING STOPS

Building operatives struck work at Eastbourne because the use of the Town Hall was refused to strikers for meetings.

TWO TRAINS

At Northampton 20 railway clerks are on strike. Two trains left—one for London and one for Birmingham.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The national conference of Labour women, fixed for May 12 and 13, at Huddersfield, has been postponed.

CANADA'S FULL SUPPORT

Financial Assistance If It is Needed

"GENEROUS SPIRIT"

A cable has been sent to the British Trades Union Congress by Tom Moore, president of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress, saying: "The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada extends the full moral support of the Canadian workers in your present struggle to maintain the already meagre standards of living of the British workers."

The Canadian Congress is acting in co-operation with the International Federation of Trade Unions, so that, if the British T.U.C. appeals for financial assistance, the appeal can be immediately brought before the Canadian membership.

"The close," ties," says Tom Moore," which bind so many members of the Canadian Trade Union Movement and the British workers is an assurance that such an appeal, if found necessary, will be met in a generous spirit."

S. AFRICA MEETING

The National Executive Council of the South African Trades Union Congress has called a meeting for Thursday, to give its reply to the International Federation of Trade Unions' appeal for support for the strike.

STRIKERS AT PRAYER

Great congregations of strikers are gathering each morning in Plymouth Parish Church for special services.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

By C. L. EVERARD, "Gadfly," of the "Daily Herald"

To the making of Dope there is no end. With a view to qualifying for a Government job for the duration, I hasten to dot down a few news items. True? Well, I wouldn't say that, seeing that I've warned you what I'm trying to qualify for. But at least as true as some of the "news" which is being fed to a hungry populace at the moment by certain Boss publicity merchants. Which, as you remark, isn't saying much. Having made myself quite clear, I hope, as to the utter unreliability of anything which may follow, we will proceed to give imagination her head, good and hearty. How's this for Item Number One?

* * *

The Mayfair battalion of the Order of Mugs and Saps (hereinafter referred to as the O.M.S.) paraded yesterday morning in full regalia, toppers and spats. The assembled warriors, after being reviewed by Brigadier-General Sir Aloysius Bludger, K.B.E., volunteered to a man for service in the coal mines on the terms offered by the coalowners to the miners. They then entrained in their Rolls-Royces amid the cheers and tears of a number of ladies of gentle birth. Proceeded by a ukulele band playing "Land of Hope and Glory," and "Mary, Call the Cattle Home," they drove to Paddington, their ultimate destina-

KEIR HARDIE ON WORKERS' POWER

Great Leader's Vision of To-day's Event

THE WAY TO WIN

Mrs. M. Travers Symons, who was for ten years Keir Hardie's private secretary, sends us a passage from a manuscript left by the great Labour leader, which bears vividly upon the present situation.

This is what he wrote some 20 years ago:—

"The methods by which Labour will seek to obtain control of the affairs of the world will be, in the main, constitutional.

"The ballot box and the general strike will both be used as occasion may require.

"In the almost immediate future a new movement for the object aimed at in the revolutionary upheaval which convulsed the Continent of Europe in 1848 may be expected.

"In 1848, as before and since, the revolutionary proletariat had no thought but the street barricade as a method of fighting; now it is seen that industry may be paralysed, order turned into chaos, and the most ferocious of War Ministers rendered impotent if only the workers as a nation will lie abed when the hour strikes for going to work. Gatling guns are quite powerless in such a revolution."

tion, it was understood, being South Wales.

Later advices from the Rhondda Valley state that the O.M.S.-ers in question have not yet arrived, owing to some trouble or other on the railways. It is rumoured that a number of them, being a little weak in geography, drove to Tisbury and embarked for New South Wales.

Keen disappointment is expressed by the Welsh miners, who had made hurried purchases of flowers and fruit with which to welcome these hardy fellows. The fruit is said to be in a rotten condition already, but it is thought that the flowers may come in handy, in the event of the unexpected demise of one or other of the visitors.

* * *

Not to be outdone by the O.M.S. the British and National Fascisti, Inc., have also decided to volunteer for work at the coal face. They argue that, in view of the fact that they wear black shirts, the difference in their laundry bills at the end of the week would be negligible, whereas the lavender spats of the O.M.S. would need to be cleaned early and often.

* * *

You don't believe it? Have a heart, Henry, have a heart! How do you think I'm going to get that job?

CABINET'S OWN NEWSPAPER

Copies of It Very Hard to Find!

UNIONS ATTACKED

So far as London was concerned, the attempt of the Government to circulate a newspaper yesterday morning was a failure.

The *British Gazette* came out, but it got into very few hands. No copies were on sale in the streets or at the newsagents' shops. Only after a great many efforts did the *British Worker* succeed in finding a copy of its rival.

Printed at the *Morning Post* Office, it has the appearance of that journal. In contents also it is akin to the Duke of Northumberland's organ.

Prominence was given yesterday to an attack upon the Trade Unions in the well-known *Morning Post* style, making the absurd charge that Trade Unionists are all "Left Wing-ers" and supporters of "extreme political opinions."

Trade Union Funds

The object of the article is to suggest that the 1913 Act, which permitted trade unions to use their funds for political or any other purposes which seemed good to them, should be repealed. That, in a newspaper published by the Cabinet, has a very significant look.

Then, after bitterly attacking the workers who are defending the miners in their valiant fight for a living wage, the *British Gazette* gives the following news item, under the heading, "Latest Wills":

"Alderman William Edwin Pease, ex-M.P. for Darlington, left £285,213, with net personalty £271,796."

It only needs to be added that Alderman Pease was one of the biggest coalowners in the North Country.

A few other news sheets and cards have made their appearance during the last two days.

The *Times* issued a single small page, thirteen inches by eight. Several enterprising individuals manifested typewritten sheets and hawked them in the streets. All that these contained in most cases was the B.B.C. Wireless Bulletin.

Late on Tuesday afternoon copies of newspapers which had appeared that morning were selling briskly at 2d. each. The purchasers imagined they were getting something fresh!

ALL DAMPED DOWN

Blast furnaces and coke ovens in the Cleveland district have all been damped down. All iron and steel works have been closed down, and iron and stone mines are following. Forty thousand men in Teesside and Cleveland are affected.

FASCISTS ADVISE FORCE

The Italian Fascist Press contains many eulogies of the British Government for having entered into a conflict with trade unions, and advises that the Fascist method of dealing with trade unions—namely, suppression—should be adopted in Britain.

DERBY SWELLS CHORUS

More than 25,000 members of the Engineering Sheet Metal and Foundry Workers' Union at Derby have been called out and are now on strike.

COMPLETE STOPPAGE OVER WHOLE COUNTRY

Immediate, Unanimous & Enthusiastic Response to Strike Order

"The stoppage is complete" is the curt but graphic official summary of the situation.

Throughout the country the response to the call of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress was immediate, unanimous and enthusiastic.

From every centre in the country the reports are the same.

The men are out solidly. Complete order prevails.

The Government is busy enrolling "volunteers" to do the work of strikers. But their efforts are not affecting the situation to any appreciable extent.

PERFECT ORDER EVERYWHERE

The response to the call of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress on Monday night was the most immediate, the most enthusiastic and the most unanimous in the history of the British Movement.

The miners were already locked out. It was to the railwaymen, the transport workers, the printing workers, the iron and steel workers, the metal and heavy chemical groups (including all workers engaged in installing alternative plant to take the place of coal), the building workers (other than those on housing and hospital work) that the strike order was given.

They have obeyed it, almost to a man, all over the country.

The effect of the strike order was instantaneous. Every one of these trades has shut down all over the country.

"The stoppage is complete," the General Council was able to announce on Wednesday night, after receiving reports from every important centre.

That summarises the situation.

"Shut Down"

Food supplies, in accordance with the orders of the T.U.C., are being carried. Food trains are being allowed to run.

But, with the exception of the food trains, and of, perhaps, a dozen trains run by officials or by engineering students, the railways of England, Scotland and Wales were deserted.

Through the great junction of Crewe, for example—one of the busiest traffic centres of the country—only two trains passed during the whole of yesterday. They both carried milk.

Road transport, like rail transport, has ceased in nearly every town. Portsmouth and Lincoln were the only places where it was reported that the trams were running yesterday. And even there they were expected to close down.

The big omnibus services have stopped. Only small companies and individual busses ran.

With the exception of a few local provincial sheets, not a newspaper was published yesterday.

Building operations—except on housing and hospitals, as the General Council had ordered—ceased work everywhere.

Iron and steel works closed. Everything worked to plan.

Everywhere the most perfect order was maintained.

The only "incidents" have been of the most trivial character.

A couple of lorries were overturned yesterday evening in Peplar. A bus was overturned in Nottingham. There were two or three rows between pickets and volunteers in Glasgow.

And that is all. Everywhere also perfect discipline, perfect order.

Yet the Government is losing no opportunity to draft troops into the working-class areas.

Already, last Thursday, while the coal negotiations were going on, before there was any talk of a general strike, preparations were being made and billets arranged.

On Saturday the troops moved into the mining areas.

Yesterday the Government tried to persuade the management of the Great Western Railway Works at Swindon to have a military guard. The suggestion was declined.

The London Traffic

The London streets yesterday were an extraordinary sight. The workers who were not on strike came in to their work on foot or on bicycles, or, some of them, on carts and lorries.

But from all the middle-class suburbs came an incessant stream of cars. Big cars, small cars, tricar, sidecars, thronged the streets, jostled each other, jammed each other, created the biggest traffic problem London has ever seen.

The result was that many car-owners took longer over the journeys than the workers who plodded on foot beside them.

Through the jostle of small cars a few buses belonging to small owners tried rather helplessly to nose their way.

The "Volunteers"

The first day, the complete tie-up. To-day the attempts to run substitute services by the aid of volunteers begin.

In all the big towns committees under the orders of the "Civil Commissioners" are at work, appealing for, and enrolling "volunteers."

They claim that the response has been a big one. But how many of the "volunteers" will be of any use remains to be seen.

On the railways the most that the Government seems to hope for is the running of a few main-line trains with non-union drivers, and the working of some of the electric local lines with "volunteers."

They have issued their "British Bulletin" from the office of the "Morning Post."

They hope to put a number of buses, driven by amateur drivers, on the streets to increase the congestion caused by the small cars in the rush hours.

But they cannot open the coalmines; they cannot work the blastfurnaces; they cannot run the railways; they cannot send volunteers to the docks.

The stoppage is complete, and remains complete.

HELP FROM THE CONTINENT

German Miners to Stop Blackleg Coal

READY TO STRIKE

The most enthusiastic support for the British workers is being shown by the German workers. The German miners have been officially informed of the strike and have replied with measures for operating the International's decision not to allow the export of coal to the detriment of the Britishminers.

In addition, they say that they are only waiting until the British leaders ask them to come out, when they will immediately do so.

Great meetings at which the British workers' position is explained are being held in many towns, and the enthusiasm is immense.

A meeting at Dortmund, a mining centre, has telegraphed to A. J. Cook, expressing support of action by the German miners and transport workers, in conjunction with the International Federation of Trade Unions, to prevent the export of German coal.

FRENCH UNIONS TO ACT

Railmen, Dockers, Seamen and Miners Declare Solidarity

A message from Leon Jouhaux, secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, states that the bureau of that body has brought together the representatives of the Miners', Railwaymen's, Dockers', and Seamen's Federations, who have respectively made known the measures contemplated by their organisations in view of the general strike of the English workers.

The message goes on to express the solidarity of the French workers with their British comrades, and to assure them that every effort will be made to contribute to the success of their movement.

Two thousand workers in a motor factory at St. Ouen, near Paris, have struck work as a demonstration of sympathy with their British comrades.

MINERS' INTERNATIONAL

The International Miners' Federation Executive has been called to meet in Brussels on Monday or Tuesday.

TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION.

Message from the General Executive Council to all Members.

Reports have been received from every area in the country under our control that the members have responded solidly to the call of the General Council. The discipline is excellent. Keep quiet and stand firm so that the Council and the Officers may carry on their work, knowing they have your wholehearted support.

(Signed) HARRY GOSLING
ERNEST BEVIN

How The Fight Goes In The Country

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER LATEST NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

Magnificent Response to T.U.C.'s Call : Fine Discipline Maintained

Solidarity of the workers throughout the whole of Scotland is assured. From all parts come reports that the response to the strike call has been magnificent.

Glasgow and Dundee may be taken as representative of the rest of Scotland, where the T.U.C.'s instructions are being implicitly obeyed and good order maintained.

SCENES ON THE CLYDE

Glasgow's response to the strike call was magnificent.

The Railway Union organisation worked splendidly, and traffic is entirely suspended.

Harbour men and dockers are also solid, and river traffic is at a standstill.

Over 800 tramcars are not working, only a very few moving with non-union labour.

The printing industry is at a standstill, and on Tuesday no evening paper appeared.

The iron and steel industries are "out" to a man.

Good discipline is being maintained, and union officials are perfectly satisfied and confident of complete solidarity being maintained.

The Scottish T.U.C. General Council is fully satisfied with the position. The only difficulty experienced is in keeping men at work in trades not yet affected.

DUNDEE

Further north, in the Dundee area, the arrangements worked with military-like precision.

Railmen, trammens and general transport workers ceased work on the stroke of midnight.

Quietness reigns throughout the city, and there is not the slightest indication of restiveness on the part of the men.

In a half-jocular way, the tramway manager attempted to drive one car in the morning, but a crowd of workers surrounded the vehicle, and it was quickly driven back to the depot.

One passenger train, in charge of students, arrived from Edinburgh.

ON THE CLYDE

On the Clyde, the populace is calm. Open-air meetings are being held throughout Glasgow to impart information concerning the progress of the strike. It was stated on Wednesday afternoon that local railway offices had been instructed from London to refuse wages to strikers who applied for them, on the plea they have broken their agreement by stopping work without notice.

Railway stations are closed, and suburban trains are practically cancelled.

The S.C.W.S. branch of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers has offered its branch funds to help the T.U.C.

Mining Valleys Send Encouraging Reports to Headquarters

In the Aberdare Valley the behaviour of the workers is all that could be desired, and they are following developments in the crisis with calmness. They are unflinching in their attitude as to the maintenance of wages and hours as advised by their leaders.

Traffic in the Rhymney and Aber Valley, South Wales, is completely at a standstill, and so keen is the sympathy among classes of workers outside the instructions of the T.U.C. that great difficulty is being experienced in keeping these men at work.

The clerk said he doubted the validity of the action of the Council, and the names were recorded.

The Senghenydd and Abertridwr Trades Council (South Wales) have agreed that stokers are to work at the local collieries.

Complaints have been received at Cardiff strike headquarters that in many cases supplies of tea, sugar,

bacon and dairy produce have been sold out and that placards have been exhibited refusing credit.

Cardiff tramwaymen have refused to return to work although threatened with dismissal.

In the Spen Valley all is quiet. It appears that the calling out of the moulders in the district was a mistake, as the result of a telegram, and the men have now returned to their employment. There have been some attempts to persuade other men to return, but so far the men's loyalty to their unions has been unshakable.

At Ilkeston there is no fresh development in the situation. Arrangements are being made by the Town Council for the distribution of food, and fuel committees are being formed. Additional centres are to be opened for the feeding of necessitous school children if the necessity arises.

Everything remains quiet and orderly in Mid-Glamorgan district. The omnibus services to Bridgend Valley have been curtailed. Representations have been made by the miners' officials to omnibus proprietors, and they have all complied with requests to stop running their buses.

MINERS SOLID

Everything at a Standstill in Llanely District

In Llanely, where the manufacture of tinplates is the staple industry, all the works are at a standstill, while there are no means of transport apart, of course, from privately-owned cars and lorries used for the distribution of provisions.

This means that about 12,000 persons are idle in the town. Taking the surrounding districts, which embrace the Amman and Gwondraeth Valleys, where collieries are situated, there are about 17,000 miners on strike.

There was a service of buses running between Llanely and the Gwondraeth Valley, but representations having been made to the driver-owners by some strikers, it was suspended.

Everything is quite peaceful and orderly. The local railwaymen have booked a school for the duration of the struggle, where it is proposed to hold meetings daily for the purpose of receiving reports.

On Tuesday night about 200 railwaymen marched in from the school to the Town Hall-square. Here speeches were delivered by local Labour men.

SHIP STRIKE STOPPED

Forty-six members of the engine-room staff of the White Star liner Arabic attempted to leave the ship as she was on the point of sailing from New York. They were prevented by the officers.

TRAMLESS—BUSLESS

No trains have reached Castleford (Yorks) since Monday, and no attempt has been made to start a motor-bus service. The work of drawing the pit ponies has been practically completed in all the local collieries. All is quiet.

POINT FOR DECISION

Durham miners are to seek a decision on the point whether those now out of work are entitled to unemployment allowance. Their contention is they are locked out by the action of employers.

WIGAN'S RESPONSE

T.U.C.—Orders Faithfully Followed

In the Wigan coalfield, where an immediate and unanimous response was given to the T.U.C. call, the strikers are strictly obeying orders to avoid any breach of the peace.

Local newspapers were unable to publish their usual mid-week issues, owing to the printing employees withdrawing their services.

The Corporation library was filled with workmen in their clogs, inspecting treasures or reading books and magazines.

FRENCH COAL EMBARGO

Nothing to be Loaded for British Ports

The French unions have issued orders that no coal is to be loaded on any ship whatever its destination, and that no cargoes whatever are to be loaded for British ports.

Only one boat train left Paris for Channel ports, and no goods for transmission to Great Britain are being accepted by the railway companies.

DERRY RATIONED

Work is at a standstill at the Derry quays. Coal stocks are being rationed, and a long queue waited all day for permits. Several shirt factories have paid off their hands, while others have given a week's notice.

PRIVATE BUSES STOP

Whole Service Practically at a Standstill

The Lanarkshire to Glasgow private bus service is almost at a standstill. About 300 buses are affected.

The miners on the various routes sent a deputation to the owners asking for their withdrawal. This procedure was effective.

A few buses are operating between Glasgow and non-mining areas.

OWNERS' DRASTIC PROPOSALS

The Miners' Federation has prepared a table showing a comparison of wages payable to certain representative classes of day-wage workers before the lock-out and the wages that would be paid under the terms of the owners' demands posted at the pit-heads.

The following figures are taken from the statement. Similar reductions are demanded in other districts.

On the basis of a 5½ day week the reductions range from 3s. 9d. to 17s. 2d. a week.

	Present wages. s. d.	Owners' terms. s. d.	Reduction per day. s. d.
Scotland—			
Coal hewers	9 4	7 6	1 10
Labourers	6 8½	6 0	8½
Northumberland—			
Hewers	10 4	7 7	2 9
Labourers	7 7½	4 9	3 1½
Durham—			
Hewers	9 8	6 10	2 10
Labourers	7 6½	4 11½	2 6½
South Wales and Monmouthshire ...			
Hewers	9 9½	7 2½	2 6½
Labourers (day)	8 0½	*6 8	*1 4½
South Yorks			
Hewers	10 7½	9 6½	1 0½
Labourers	8 8½	7 6½	1 2
Lancashire			
Hewers	9 6½	8 1½	1 5
Labourers	8 8½	6 3	2 5½
North Wales			
Hewers	9 4½	7 8	1 8½
Labourers	6 5	5 0	1 5
Derbyshire			
Hewers	11 8½	10 6½	1 2
Labourers (surface)	8 8½	7 6½	1 2
Notts—			
Hewers	12 1½	10 10½	1 2¾
Labourers (surface)	8 5½	7 3½	1 1½

* If married. For single men the rate would be 5s. 9d. a day, a reduction of 2s. 3½d. a day.

Workers Solid In The North

ALL GOES WELL IN MIDLANDS

Trouble to Keep Men In Who Are Not Involved

WORKERS STAND FIRM

The news from the Midlands is that the workers are standing "four-square," and quietly determined to see this thing through to a successful issue.

BIRMINGHAM

The stoppage in Birmingham and district is complete. Not a man in the unions involved is working on railways, trams or other transport services.

No disorder of any kind has taken place, and the pickets' job is eased by the wonderful solidarity displayed. The biggest trouble is to keep men in who are not involved.

COVENTRY.

The stoppage at Coventry is complete, and trade unionists have whole-heartedly responded to the call.

Members of unions which are not yet affected are standing by in readiness to join their comrades if called upon.

There are neither trams nor buses on the various routes of the town, which remains quiet.

LEICESTER

Seven thousand men in 20 unions are out in Leicester, and no railway or transport worker is on duty.

Everything is quiet, and Mr. T. R. Hill, secretary of the Trades Council Emergency Committee, says the most remarkable feature of the strike is the magnificent response of the men, and the peaceful way in which the strike is being carried on.

The Gas Department is lighting only a few street lamps, and the power supplied to factories has been cut down by one-half.

DERBYSHIRE

There has been an almost total suspension of rail, bus and tramway services at Ilkeston. Private bus proprietors attempted to run the usual service to Nottingham, but were stopped there and returned empty, passengers having to walk back.

Stanton Ironworks have closed down.

NOTTINGHAM

The strikers have firmly declined to permit the bus services to continue. Throughout the city the members of the unions involved are behaving splendidly.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Scunthorpe is like a town of the dead from the industrial point of view. All the iron and steel works are closed down.

JOURNALISTS' ORDER

The Executive of the National Union of Journalists has issued the following instruction to its members: "Union members are not on strike and are not called upon to abandon normal duties. Executive instructs members not to do work of other departments, nor their own work if non-union labour is introduced in other departments for producing newspapers or substitutes."

PARALYSIS AT GREAT RAIL CENTRE

Industrial Towns and Ports Where All Industry Has Ceased

The strike early laid its paralysing hand on the great railway station at Carlisle, where seven important lines converge, forming a railway hub second in importance to none in the country.

Within a few hours the usually animated platforms were deserted and desolate. Passengers arriving early in the morning could get no farther by train, but some were able to proceed in hired motor-cars to Glasgow or Edinburgh, paying as much as £25 a time.

GOOD ORDER EVERYWHERE

Everywhere the railwaymen's response was complete. What happened at Carlisle was happening throughout the country.

STEEL MEN STOP

Middlesbrough is now a "dead" town. Thirty thousand iron and steel workers, obeying the order of the Trades Union Congress, are out; tram and bus services have ceased. The railway station is closed.

On the opposite side of England, the coalfield of Cumberland is equally at a standstill. Miners to the number of 4,000 are out; and they have been joined by 3,000 iron ore miners.

HULL HELD UP

The stoppage at Hull is complete, and carried out according to instructions. Roughly, 30,000 workers are on strike in the city. The tramway and Corporation omnibus services are at a complete standstill.

No trains are running, and the Humber ferry services from Hull and North Lincolnshire are held up. The strikers include 500 railway clerks.

Railwaymen marched to a mass meeting with bands playing.

Ships' boilermakers have come out without waiting for instructions.

H.M.S. Enterprise is anchored in the Humber, but everything is quiet in the port. Fish supplies are being sent away by road transport.

NEWCASTLE QUIET

At Newcastle the stoppage is complete. Reports to the headquarters of the Northumberland miners from

WORSE THAN PRE-WAR

The results of the mine-owners' proposals would inevitably be that large numbers of our people would be in receipt of less money wages than those received in pre-war days.

That is to say, a mine-worker who was in receipt of, say, 35s. a week in pre-war days would receive about 30s. at the present time.

A settlement with the mineowners on these lines is impossible.

—Miners' Federation statement to the Conference of Trade Unions last week.

the districts show in every lodge a staunch determination to stand fast. Good order prevails everywhere.

DOCKS IDLE

At Sunderland the stoppage of railways, trams, bus services, and at the docks is complete. Only one passenger train left the station—a train which a Newcastle driver was working back from York to Newcastle. The tramwaymen's decision to stop was unanimous.

FIRM AT HALIFAX

Halifax workers involved in the crisis are solid to a man, and great mass meetings have expressed a determination to fight the miners' battle as if it were their own.

Mt. Robert Morley, the veteran union leader in the town, says that never in 35 years' experience has he seen such a spirit of unanimity.

At Barrow-in-Furness, the railways are at a standstill, while steelworks have been stopped and blast furnaces are damped down.

MUSICAL INTERLUDES

There is a complete stoppage of railways, trams, newspapers, and coal mines at Bradford. The men are urged by their union leaders to observe order and keep off the streets. Transport workers possessing musical instruments are asked to provide concerts at branch rooms.

FOOD PLANS

On the whole, Newcastle is very quiet. There have been demonstrations against buses plying for hire, and in some cases drivers turned the buses round and left without picking up passengers.

Sir Kingsley Wood, Commissioner for the North, called upon Mr. William Weir and Mr. Ebby Edwards, president and financial secretary of the Northumberland miners, and there were mutual assurances that nothing would be done to interfere with the agreed methods of distribution of milk and foodstuffs.

SCHOOLS STAY OPEN

All London County Council schools are to remain open. Complete discretion is being left to heads of schools to carry on in the way best calculated to meet any difficulties which may arise.

COUNCIL AND E.P.

Deptford Council, which has a Labour majority, decided to take no action when a letter was read at the council meeting from the Ministry of Health and the Mines Department, asking the council to appoint committees to carry out the requirements of the Emergency Powers Order.

Several London theatres have been compelled to close down. Among them are the Adelphi, the Apollo, His Majesty's, the Winter Garden, and the Shaftesbury.

BUSINESS IN A CLEFT STICK

Paralysing Effect of Strike at Manchester

MEN FIRM AS A ROCK

The effectiveness of the strike is apparent everywhere in Manchester, where the stoppage is probably as complete as anywhere in the country. "Business in a cleft stick" sums up the situation.

Reports from headquarters of the various unions show the utmost solidarity. The tram men are standing firm as a rock, and are determined to do so even if the strike lasts for months. Salford men are equally determined, so are the members of the E.T.U.

IDLE SHIP CANAL

All work at the docks and Ship Canal is at a standstill.

The unions' arrangements are developing with a smoothness that is astonishing everybody, and none more so than the different employers' organisations, who predicted that they would be chaotic and unworkable.

Perfect order obtains in the city. Attempts were made to set up regular charabanc services, but pickets' intervention made this impossible.

A workers' meeting was about to be held near the Town Hall, Manchester, but the Lord Mayor disallowed speeches, and the crowds marched away in orderly fashion.

POTTERIES SHUT

Chesterfield Blacklegs on the Buses

The strike is spreading in the Chesterfield area, a number of potteries closing down. Some of the men came out in sympathy, while others were stopped because of the shortage of coal and the lack of transport facilities.

The Corporation tramway service has been reduced to the running of one car, manned by inspectors. Bus services have been increased, and this led the strikers to issue notices, "Please do not ride on buses. Blackleg labour. Thank you."

The conduct of those on strike continues to be exemplary.

THANKS!

The Palestine Federation of Labour has cable a donation of £100 in support of the British miners.

MINERS' FEDERATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Mine workers are to be congratulated on their firm struggle against the dictation of the mineowners. Stand by your trade unions as other unions are standing loyally and steadfastly by you.

HERBERT SMITH, *President.*
A. J. COOK, *Secretary.*

Miners' Message To Their Allies

TRANSPORT WORKERS IN DETERMINED SPIRIT

Excellent Response: Reports from Every District

Reports to the headquarters of the Transport and General Workers' Union show a firm response and a splendid spirit among the members.

District by district, the following is a summary of the messages:—

AREA No. 1 (London and Home Counties): General position splendid. Docks, waterways, passenger and commercial members all solid. Morale of members exceptionally good.

AREA No. 2 (South of England, including Channel Isles): Reports received indicate position is very satisfactory. All docker members solid. Attempting to run skeleton tramway service in Southampton. Steps being taken locally to deal effectively with position.

AREA No. 3 (West of England): All sections readily responded to call. Reports indicate position being maintained splendidly. Active co-operation with local Trades and Labour Councils.

AREA No. 4 (SOUTH WALES): Position in all districts admirable. Stoppage complete and effective throughout area. Strike Committees and Joint Union Committees working with precision. Discipline and morale excellent.

AREA No. 5 (MIDLANDS): All sections responded magnificently. Re-

ports indicate the position is a strong one and being well maintained.

AREA No. 6 (N.W. COAST, LANCA-SHIRE AND PORTIONS OF CHESHIRE): Position continues satisfactory, all sections having responded to a man. Morale splendid. North-Western Committee of Union has been set up involving all towns. Local Joint Committees set up, which are working under the direction of the Central Committee.

AREA No. 7 (SCOTLAND): Reports indicate that the general position is solid and the morale of the members exceptional. Joint Committees are in being in all districts.

AREA No. 8 (North of England, including Northumberland): Position splendid. Complete stoppage. Joint Committees representing unions concerned in operation in all districts, and doing effective work.

AREA No. 9 (North Midlands and Yorkshire): Response to call was magnificent.

AREA No. 10 (East Coast): Reports from all districts indicate the position in this area is very good. The response in Hull can be regarded as magnificent.

AREA No. 12 (Liverpool and District): Liverpool, Birkenhead, Garston, Fleetwood and Preston all solid.

UNDER THE GOLDEN HEEL

Workers' Fighting Crushing Methods of Capitalism

"Either the capitalists are going to crush us, or we are going to ensure for the miners a decent standard of living. With our backs to the wall we shall show that we can fight as Englishmen. If we are defeated in this struggle it will be the turn of the railwaymen next."

This was the purport of a rousing speech delivered to strikers of the Swindon area yesterday, when enthusiastic mass meetings passed resolutions pledging continued and whole-hearted support for the miners.

From the surrounding districts reports show that the stoppage is in complete operation.

HOUSING GOES ON

While bringing out operative builders, Merthyr Tydvil branch of the Building Trades Confederation has agreed with the Corporation to continue on housing work.

£1 A WEEK

From May 14 Leicestershire Miners' Association will give union pay of £1 weekly to members, with 2s. each for child under 14.

COUNCILLORS' STAND

Councillors Edgar and Tweedle (Labour) have declined to serve on a Municipal Emergency Committee at Birkenhead.

BARRY DOCKS IDLE

All work at Barry Docks is completely at a standstill, and over a thousand workers are out.

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

City Council's Appeal to Cabinet

Newcastle City Council yesterday passed unanimously a resolution urging the Government to resume negotiations with the contending parties on the conditions that a general strike order be withdrawn, and that the coal-owners reopen all mines at existing wages and conditions for a time long enough to arrive at a settlement, with a continuance of the Government subsidy over that period.

TO PROTECT STANDARDS

A.E.U. President on Purpose of the Strike

Mr. J. T. Brownlie, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, at the meeting of the National Committee of the Union, which is being held at Manchester this week, said the general strike policy, it would be admitted by all parties, was an avowed declaration against any attempt to lower the standard of life or increase the hours of labour.

"In view of the urgency of the situation we must rid ourselves," he said, "of all prejudices and approach the question with an open mind, realising that in the exceptional circumstances exceptional methods may have to be employed."

C.W.S. BANK

Rumours are current that the C.W.S. bank payments are suspended. There is not the least vestige of truth in this statement.

ALL WORKERS AFFECTED BY THE ATTACK

Government Alone to Blame for the Fight: Long Preparations

"JUSTICE IS ON OUR SIDE"

The Miners' Federation issues a manifesto to its allies in the fight. The manifesto declares that every worker is affected by the attack on the miners, that the Government is alone responsible for the crisis, and that with the support of their allies the miners are confident of victory for the workers' cause.

Comrades,—The struggle has begun. Menaced with an onslaught on their standard of life by the mineowners and the Government, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain submitted their case to the judgment of their fellow-trade unionists.

The General Council and Conference of Trade Union Executives considered it with a full sense of their grave responsibilities and pronounced it just beyond all possibility of question.

To-day the whole body of British workers stands united as one man in their unconquerable determination to resist demands which were a calculated and deliberate attack, not only upon the miners, but on every worker in the country and upon the very existence of the Trade Union Movement itself.

MAGNIFICENT LOYALTY

On behalf of the Miners' Federation we express our heartfelt thanks for the magnificent loyalty with which you, our fellow-workers, have responded to our appeal for aid.

We have laboured for a peaceful settlement, but the Government, not only by its words, but by its actions, has shown only too plainly that peace is not what it desires.

In insisting that the miners should

pledge themselves to accept a reduction in wages before even entering negotiations, it advanced an unheard-of demand which no body of trade unionists could accept.

SUNDAY NIGHT'S BREAK

In suddenly breaking off negotiations with the General Council and the Miners' Federation on Sunday night, it revealed its determination to force upon the Trade Union Movement a struggle for which the Government had long prepared.

It is on the Government, and the Government alone, that the responsibility for the present situation rests.

There is no need for us to call for your assistance, for you have already given it. With you we shall stand firm to the end in defending the rights of the organised workers. With you, we know that justice is on our side. With you, we are confident that the resolute action of a united Movement will bring victory to the cause of the workers.

THE £ FALLS

Latest reports: Dollar rate is down to 4.85½ (it was 4.88½ last Friday). French francs fell sensationally to 154. This is attributable to the selling of francs by British banks to bolster up Sterling Securities—latest prices: Conversion Three and a Half, 73½; War Loan Fives, 99½; Funding Loan, 85.

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