

THE BRITISH WORKER

OFFICIAL STRIKE NEWS BULLETIN

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NO VICTIMISATION!

Those employers who imagine that the calling off of the General Strike means the collapse of the Trade Union Movement are making the mistake of their lives.

Many are trying to impose vindictive terms on the workers; they are trying to compel men to sign humiliating documents; they are trying to beat down wages.

If they persist they will find out how mistaken they are. They will find that the spirit of the British worker is not only unbroken, but unbreakable.

Further, these employers, in addition to making a mistake, are breaking an obligation of honour.

The General Council, by calling off the General Strike, made the way clear for an honourable peace. It did so on the understanding that the spirit of its action would be reciprocated by the other side. It did so in reliance on the public assurances of the Prime Minister that he would foster the spirit of peace.

The calling off of the strike was not evidence of weakness. It was evidence of the genuine belief that peace could be obtained on terms honourable and beneficial to the whole Movement and the whole nation.

The General Council responded to the Prime Minister's appeal. Much depends upon how far he is prepared to back up that speech by action. If he will use all his influence to see that no employer tries to victimise and humiliate the workers, then the peace may be saved. If not...

Let there be no mistake. The Trade Union Movement is not suing for mercy. It is not beaten. It is not broken. Its strength is unimpaired and even reinforced by the solidarity which the response to the General Strike revealed. If one class of employers, misinterpreting the calling off of the strike, thinks it can seize the opportunity to disrupt and degrade the Trade Union Movement, the situation is grave indeed. To that the Movement cannot and will not submit.

The alternative—the only alternative—to that grave situation is peace: peace honourably made and, on both sides, honourably kept.

WEATHER

Wind W. to N.W., fresh and squally, moderating later. Occasional thundery showers. Rather cold; improving later.

WHY WORK DID NOT BEGIN

Employers Make Fresh Attack Upon Trade Unionism & Workers' Standard of Life

MILLIONS STILL OUT

There was a general expectation on Wednesday, when the great Strike terminated, that work would be resumed forthwith. To the great disappointment of the nation this did not happen.

Many men who went to work were told they must accept fresh conditions and lower wages. Upon instructions from their Unions, they refused to do this, and were thereupon told their employers did not want them.

The situation is thus a very difficult one still—and made more so by the fact that while, during the strike all those out were in a good humour, large numbers are now indignant at this new attack on Trade Unionism.

STAND TOGETHER

Fellow Trade Unionists,

The General Strike has ended. It has not failed. It has made possible the resumption of negotiations in the coal industry, and the continuance, during negotiations, of the financial assistance given by the Government.

You came out together, in accordance with the instructions of the Executives of your Unions. Return together on their instructions, as and when they are given.

Some employers will approach you as individuals, with the

The General Council is remaining in permanent session and in close touch with the affiliated unions.

It is reviewing the whole situation of Trade Union standards and the whole question of the preservation and is giving attention to the peaceful resumption of work.

demand that you should accept conditions different from those obtaining before the stoppage began.

Sign no individual agreement. Consult your Union officials, and stand by their instructions. Your Union will protect you, and will insist that all agreements previously in force shall be maintained intact.

The Trade Union Movement has demonstrated its unity. That unity remains unimpaired. Stick to your Unions.

GENERAL COUNCIL,
TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

PEACE ONLY WITH HONOUR

Prime Minister's Good Faith Involved

The General Council called off the General Strike in confidence that the Prime Minister meant what he said when he asked for resumption of negotiations towards an honourable peace. Peace depends upon employers abstaining from attempts at victimisation. It depends upon their declining to follow the example some are setting of using this position to attack the position of Trade Unionism.

Their effect will be that the unions, for self-protection, will be compelled to offer the most stubborn resistance.

The whole purpose expressed by the Prime Minister will be null and void if this occurs.

The Government, if it means what the Prime Minister said, must stop this attack on Trade Unionism. It must demand that

Continued on Page Four

Assurance of Justice

WHY THE STRIKE WAS CALLED OFF

Memorandum Which Gave Assurance of Fair Treatment To Workers in Mines

The "British Worker" reprints to-day the full text of the letter sent by Sir Herbert Samuel to Mr. Pugh, and the reply dispatched by the latter and Mr. Citrine.

In addition we reprint the full text of the memorandum on the basis of which the General Council decided to call off the general strike.

Dear Mr. Pugh,

May 12th, 1926.

As the outcome of the conversations which I have had with your Committee, I attach a memorandum embodying the conclusions that have been reached.

I have made it clear to your Committee from the outset that I have been acting entirely on my own initiative, have received no authority from the Government, and can give no assurances on their behalf.

I am of opinion that the proposals embodied in the Memorandum are suitable for adoption, and are likely to promote a settlement of the differences in the Coal Industry.

I shall strongly recommend their acceptance by the Government when the negotiations are renewed.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) HERBERT SAMUEL.

Sir Herbert Samuel.

London. May 12th, 1926.

Dear Sir,—

The General Council, having carefully considered your letter of to-day and the memorandum attached to it, concurred in your opinion that it offers a basis on which the negotiations upon the conditions in the Coal Industry can be renewed.

They are taking the necessary measures to terminate the General Strike, relying upon the public assurances of the Prime Minister as to the steps that would follow. They assume that during the resumed negotiations the subsidy will be renewed and that the lock-out notices to the Miners will be immediately withdrawn.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ARTHUR PUGH, Chairman.

WALTER M. CITRINE, Acting Secretary.

THE MEMORANDUM

The following is the memorandum referred to in Sir Herbert Samuel's letter:—

1. The negotiations upon the conditions of the coal industry should be resumed, the subsidy being renewed for such reasonable period as may be required for that purpose.
2. Any negotiations are unlikely to be successful unless they provide for means of settling disputes in the industry other than conferences between the mineowners and the miners alone. A National Wages Board should, therefore, be established, which would include representatives of those two parties, with a neutral element and an independent chairman. The proposals in this direction tentatively made in the Report of the Royal Commission should be pressed and the powers of the proposed Board enlarged.

3. The parties to the Board should be entitled to raise before it any points they consider relevant to the issue under discussion, and the Board should be required to take such points into consideration.

4. There should be no revision of the previous wage rates, unless there are sufficient assurances that the measures of reorganisation proposed by the Commission will be effectively adopted. A Committee should be established as proposed by the Prime Minister, on which representatives of the men should be included, whose duty it should be to co-operate with the Government in the preparation of the legislative and administrative measures that are required. The same Committee, or, alternatively, the National Wages Board, should assure itself that the necessary steps, so far as they relate to matters within the industry, are not being neglected or unduly postponed.

5. After these points have been agreed and the Mines National Wages Board has considered every practicable means of meeting such immediate financial difficulties as exist, it may, if that course is found to be absolutely necessary, proceed to the preparation of a wage agreement.

6. Any such agreement should

- (i) if practicable, be on simpler lines than those hitherto followed.
- (ii) Not adversely affect in any way the wages of the lowest-paid men.
- (iii) Fix reasonable figures below which the wage of no class of labour, for a normal customary week's work, should be reduced in any circumstances.
- (iv) In the event of any new adjustments being made, should provide for the revision of such adjustments by the Wages Board from time to time if the facts warrant that course.

7. Measures should be adopted to prevent the recruitment of new workers, over the age of 18 years, into the industry if unemployed miners are available.

8. Workers who are displaced as a consequence of the closing of uneconomic collieries should be provided for by

- (a) The transfer of such men as may be mobile, with the Government assistance that may be required, as recommended in the Report of the Royal Commission.
- (b) The maintenance, for such period as may be fixed, of those who cannot be so transferred, and for whom alternative employment cannot be found; this maintenance to comprise an addition to the existing rate of unemployment pay under the Unemployment Insurance Act, of such amount as may be agreed. A contribution should be made by the Treasury to cover the additional sums so disbursed.
- (c) The rapid construction of new houses to accommodate transferred workers. The Trades Union Congress will facilitate this by consultation and co-operation with all those who are concerned.

ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued an appeal urging that a spirit of brotherhood and good temper should be displayed in attaining a peaceable and permanent solution of the problems facing the country.

LONDON TRADES COUNCIL

The delegate meeting of the London Trades Council will be held as usual at the Club Union Hall, Clerkenwell-road (adjoining Holborn Hall), on Thursday evening, at seven o'clock.

TRAMMEN DISMISSED

The Glasgow Tramways Committee have dismissed 100 strikers, mainly prominent as union leaders, and suspended many others until they make a statement in writing. The subway municipal tubes employees have been largely reinstated, and a full service is running. A number of N.U.R. local strike leaders are threatened with suspension.

Following the derailment of a railway engine yesterday several miles from Hull, passengers travelled by motor-bus to Hull.

TRAMS COLLIDE

Two tramcars, driven by "volunteers," came in collision on the single track in High-street, Acton, on Thursday morning, and a lorry was also involved. The vehicles were damaged and two persons were detained at the local hospital.

EXTRA SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

In recognition of the way "the schools had been carried on during the strike" the London County Council resolved to grant an additional three days' holiday to the staff at Whitsuntide.

CALL FOR INQUIRY

An inquiry has been asked for by Glasgow Trades and Labour Council into the police conduct in the east end of the town, when, it is alleged, police molested unoffending citizens, some of whom were batoned and injured.

POLICE RECALLED

Orders have been issued recalling the members of the West Riding Police Force who left Hull two days ago.

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield—an avowed Tory—has complimented the strikers on their splendid behaviour.

Railwaymen To Stay On Strike

ACTION TO COMPS"

Same Terms as
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N DEMANDS

Society of Compositors
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same terms as applied
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BATON CHARGE

to Warrimond Men
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Rectory, Poplar, were
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BY THE DAY

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OBSTACLES RAISED BY THE COMPANIES

Unions' Joint Order to Members Not to Resume Work

The railwaymen are to continue
on strike until their unions order to
the contrary.

This is a consequence of the ac-
tion of the railway companies in in-
sisting that all their employees
must, before resuming work, sign
the following:—

"You are hereby re-engaged.
Your re-engagement is on the under-
standing that the company reserves
any rights it possesses in conse-
quence of your having broken your
contract of service."

The Executives of the three railway
unions—the National Union of Rail-
waymen, the Associated Society of
Locomotive Engineers and Firemen,
and the Railway Clerks' Association—
met to consider the whole question of
reinstatement, and as a result the fol-
lowing telegram was dispatched to the
branches:—

"In view of difficulties surround-
ing reinstatement, Joint Executives
call upon all railwaymen to continue
strike until we secure satisfactory
assurances.—BROMLEY, CRAMP,
WALKDEN."
The unions had on Wednesday

directed the men, in accordance with
the decision of the T.U.C. Council, to
report for duty. But when the men
obeyed they were faced with the de-
mand to sign the form quoted.

In addition, many men reported
that they had been told that they
would have to suffer wage reductions.
Later the companies disclaimed any
such intention.

The difficulties created by the com-
panies have made resumption impos-
sible until those difficulties have been
removed.

The railway leaders, in their state-
ment intimated that they were in
favour of an early meeting between
the conflicting parties in order that a
satisfactory settlement might be
effected.

Stating that the railway company is
taking advantage of the situation,
5,000 members of the A.E.U. refused
to return to work at Horwich locomo-
tive works.

A mass meeting of Birmingham
railway workers resolved to return to
work only on the original terms and
agreements.

MINE DELEGATES IN LONDON

What Workers Pressed for
on April 30

DEADLOCK RECALLED

Delegates from the coalfields will
assemble in London on Friday to
discuss the terms which enabled the
T.U.C. General Council to decide
to call off the general strike.

In considering these terms it is im-
portant to recall the position as it was
when negotiations with the Govern-
ment broke down on April 30.

The Government was seeking to
secure an unqualified undertaking that
the miners would accept reductions of
wages.

The T.U.C. General Council put for-
ward proposals which required that
the problem of reorganising the indus-
try should first be tackled, and the
miners, replying to a question by the
Premier, sent him this statement:—

In reply to the Government's
Memorandum, the miners state that
they are not prepared to accept a
reduction in wages as a preliminary
to the reorganisation of the indus-
try, but they reiterate that they
will be prepared to give full con-
sideration to all the difficulties con-
nected with the industry when the
schemes for such reorganisation will
have been initiated by the Govern-
ment."

Reference to the terms of the Memo-
randum, which are reprinted on Page
Two, will show that definite arrange-
ments are laid down to ensure the full
application of the Coal Commissioner's
reorganisation proposals.

A National Wages Board is to be set
up, and is to consider every practical
means of meeting such immediate finan-
cial difficulties as exist.

Only after both these provisions
have been observed, will the question
of reducing wages arise.

PONIES NOT STARVING

Job of Safety Men to Look After
Animals in Pits

The General Council of the T.U.O.
has received a report from the National
Federation of Colliery Enginemen,
Boilermen, and Mechanics, which
states that "the mines in Scotland are
being kept safe by our safety workers."

"An agreement was come to with
the Scottish coalowners," adds the re-
port, "that nothing else would be
done by our men but merely the es-
sential work for the safety of the col-
lieries. This is principally with re-
gard to the pumping and the ponies,
and not a single one of our members is
employed who is not doing such work."

"Any question of the mines being
destroyed is entirely without founda-
tion, as we have reports from all parts
of the British coalfields to that effect."

"BRITISH GAZETTE"

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is
to be asked by Commander Ken-
worthy on Tuesday whether he can
yet state the cost of publishing the
Government newspaper, known as the
British Gazette, what amounts have
been received from sales and adver-
tisements, and what compensation is
to be paid to the *Morning Post* news-
paper.

ORDERS TO E.T.U. MEN

Unconditional Reinstatement to
be Required

The London District Committee of
the Electrical Trades Union announces
an instruction to all strike committees
that members may only resume work on
the following terms:—

Where individual undertakings or
firms are prepared to agree for all men
who struck work to return to work un-
conditionally, and in accordance with
existing agreements.

Strike centres are asked to report at
once any undertakings or firms where
the men do not return owing to condi-
tions being imposed upon them by the
employers.

ORDERS TO BUILDERS

No Difficulties Reported Other
Than Transport

Mr. R. Coppock, general secretary
of the National Federation of Building
Trades Operatives, reports that all
affiliated unions have sent the fol-
lowing telegram to branches:—
"Dispute ended. Return to work."

No difficulties with regard to wages
or conditions have been reported, but
some delays had arisen owing to lack
of transport

The Amalgamated Union of Build-
ing Trade Workers has also notified
members to return to work forthwith.

EMPLOYERS' DISREGARD THE KING'S APPEAL

"LET US FORGET WHATEVER ELE-
MENTS OF BITTERNESS THE EVENTS OF
THE PAST FEW DAYS MAY HAVE
CREATED AND FORTHWITH
ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE TASK OF
BRINGING INTO BEING A PEACE THAT
WILL BE LASTING BECAUSE, FORGETTING
THE PAST, IT LOOKS ONLY TO THE
FUTURE" (From the King's appeal
to the people issued after the withdrawal of the
General Strike.)

Those employers who are refusing to reinstate
their workers unless wage reductions are accepted
are deliberately and maliciously defying His
Majesty's appeal for peace.

Mr. Baldwin and the Employers

TO TRANSPORT WORKERS

Message From the Executive Council

AWAIT ORDERS

The following instructions to the Transport Workers have been issued by the Executive Council:

Transport and General Workers' Union.

Message from Executive Council and Officers to the members:

The Transport and General Workers' Union have announced that it has been decided to respond to the appeal of the Prime Minister, and that the officers have been authorised to meet employers to make satisfactory arrangements to secure a speedy resumption of work in the public services and industries where members of the union are employed.

The Executive Council are actively seeking to secure contact with employers and employers' associations in order to make satisfactory arrangements governing a resumption of work. Where arrangements have not yet been entered into the members are requested to await the instructions of their responsible officer before work is resumed.

The Executive Council must be given an opportunity of securing that our members are able to resume work under satisfactory terms and conditions. To this end, members are instructed to stand out together and carry out only Executive instructions.

HARRY GOSLING (President).

ERNEST BEVIN (General Secretary).

THE LEGAL ASPECT

The *Solicitors' Journal*, a legal weekly of established reputation, expresses its total disagreement with Sir John Simon's statement in the House of Commons that

"every trade union leader who has advised and prompted breaches of contract by strikers is liable in damages to the uttermost farthing of his personal possessions."

"The learned K.C.," comments the *Solicitors' Journal*, "gives no reasoning or authority for this sweeping declaration, and with due respect we suggest that none exists."

PEACE WITH HONOUR

Continued from Page One
the employers abstain from victimisation.

Unless this obligation is fulfilled the trade unions will have no alternative but to resist to the uttermost.

Their resistive capacity is unimpaired. They cannot tolerate the imposition of conditions which attempt their destruction.

The good faith of the Prime Minister is involved. A peace without vindictiveness is impossible unless this attack ceases. A vindictive peace only means a new struggle. We need acts and not words if work is to be resumed. The workers will not surrender their hard-won gains of many years. The Government has said it does not desire this. Let it act firmly and quickly to that end.

REDUCED WAGES OR INCREASED HOURS NOT COUNTENANCED BY THE PREMIER

The question of the attempt by the employers to attack trade unionism and reduce the workers' standard of living was raised in the House last night.

The Premier's three main points affecting the immediate issue were:

(i) He had given only one pledge, and that to those who helped the Government that they should not suffer. That pledge he would keep.

(ii) He would countenance no attempt on the part of any employer to use the present occasion for trying in any way to get a reduction of wages or increase of hours.

(iii) He had no power to coerce or order, but the whole of the Government's influence would be cast on the side of tolerance.

STRIKERS' ONE AIM

Mr. MacDONALD emphasised that the strike was purely an industrial strike, and was started with the one idea of supporting the miners to resist the threatened reduction in wages.

When peace came and a fight was over the first thing the combatants on both sides did was to shake hands.

"That has not happened to-day!" declared Mr. MacDONALD, amid Labour cheers. It had not happened in the newspapers, nor in the streets, nor in regard to the conditions imposed upon the men who had presented themselves for work (Labour cheers).

More men were out on Thursday than on the previous day, because they believed that the conditions attempted to be imposed on those who went back would make it impossible to continue industry under peaceful conditions. If, he went on, there was any at-

tempt to smash Trade Unionism, if any section of the country or any foolish person in the country thought after the events of last week and yesterday that he could scrape the face of Trade Unionism in the dust, he was very much mistaken.

"We are not going to crawl back," said Mr. MacDONALD, "and we are not going to be treated as human beings with the yoke of absolute subordination rivetted upon our neck. If it is crush, let us know."

PREMIER'S SPEECH

Mr. BALDWIN said the supreme and obvious interest of the country required that the largest body of men possible should be brought back to work at the earliest moment.

The occasion called neither for malice, nor for recrimination, nor for triumph.

Whatever the intentions of those who brought the men out last week, in effect had the efforts been wholly successful, it would have meant the complete cessation of the Press, and of transport.

Had the Government not been prepared, there would have been a condition approaching anarchy. Could any Government have declined to take upon itself the duties of providing for vital services? Those services were provided partly by men who stayed at work and partly by volunteers.

"I have given only one pledge, and that was that those who helped the Government should not suffer for having done so."

"If I went back on that pledge who would ever trust me again?"

Referring to last week's propaganda, Mr. Baldwin complained that the men on the railways were told that there

Continued in next Column

AGREEMENTS TO BE KEPT

Instructions to General Workers

The National Union of General and Municipal Workers, on learning that obstacles had been raised to resumption of work, wired instructions to its branches signed by Mr. W. Thorne, general secretary, and Mr. J. R. Glynes, president.

The branches are told that, in consequence of "concerted action by employers" there shall not be any general resumption of work by members until trade union agreements have been fully recognised.

The Workers' Union has sent messages to its branches as follows:—

"Where employers meet in spirit of reconciliation, men to return to work at once, but members not to resume work in any firm where there is any attempt on the part of employers to insist on new agreements or to victimise members. Act with other unions in so far as this policy is observed."

Continued from previous column
was an attack on their wages to come. A Labour Member: It has come.

"So far as I know," said Mr. Baldwin, "there was not a word of truth in that."

"I will countenance no attempt on the part of any employer to use this present occasion for trying in any way to get a reduction of wages on those in force before the strike, or increase of hours." (Loud cheers.)

Following his broadcast, urging employers and trade unions to meet immediately, a meeting had been arranged with one group of employers.

There could not be a hold-up of the business of the country without dislocating and deranging the trade of the country. Foreign contracts had been cancelled, and there would be an entire cessation of, or great timidity in placing fresh orders.

"NO POWER TO ORDER"

"We have no power," said the Premier, "to coerce or order, but the whole of our influence has been exercised, and will be exercised in the letter and spirit of what I have stated by broadcast or otherwise in the last ten days."

Mr. Baldwin concluded by urging employers and unions to get together and that no one should hinder them, and especially asked for reticence in the House.

Mr. J. H. THOMAS, who said that when the T.U.C. saw the Premier he promised to help, but the official organ of the Government came out the next morning with "Total Surrender," and so on, and that went to 2,000,000 men who had refused to surrender to the Germans. They could imagine the bitterness that followed.

The Admiralty and the War Office had issued statements about strikers which could not be squared with the Premier's speech.

He instanced amongst the firms which were attempting to alter the conditions. Tillings and Carter Patersons, and said there were many other throughout the country who were adopting the same policy.

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Mr. Baldwin's Sacred Promise

"Our whole duty at the moment is to forget all recrimination. Let employers act with generosity and workers put their whole hearts loyally into their work."

"It is of the utmost importance that the whole British people should not look backward but forward, and resume their work in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill, putting behind them all malice and vindictiveness."—(Mr. Baldwin's speech following the withdrawal of the General Strike.)

Railwaymen, Transport Workers, and many other grades of Trade Unionists are now being told by their employers that they may only resume work upon accepting reduced rates of wages.

Mr. Baldwin must fulfil his pledge, and make it clear to the employers that they, as well as the workers, "must look forward and not backward and put behind them all malice and all vindictiveness."