THE BRITISH WORKER
OFFICIAL STRIKE NEWS BULLETIN
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PEACE CALL SILENCED

Plan of Churches Not Broadcast

IS IT FAIR?

The Churches, under a sense of moral responsibility, have offered some leadership in this national crisis, and have justly directed their view as to the basis of a possible concordat; but their voice has been officially silenced by the B.B.C., which is thus shown once more to be the instrument of the Government.

The General Council, without necessarily endorsing the terms of the Concordat, calls the attention of the public to the grave significance of the Government's attitude to such peace efforts.

This morning Mr. E. L. Poulton, the chairman of the Ministry Committee of the General Council, received a letter from the Rev. Henry Carter, general secretary, Wesleyan Social Welfare Department, and the Rev. P. L. T. Kirk, Vicar of Christ Church, Westminster, and director of Industrial Christian Fellowship, referring to an important pronouncement by the Archbishop of Canterbury and York asking for a resumption of negotiations with a view to the early settlement of the present crisis.

"The terms of this pronouncement," the letter says, "were settled after full conferences between the Archbishop and leaders of the Christian Churches of the country.

"The Archbishop of Canterbury sent the message to the British Broadcasting Company on Saturday night to be broadcast from B.B.C.

DEFINITE REFUSAL

"The British Broadcasting Company, officially and definitely refused to broadcast the appeal."

"In view of this refusal, the Archbishop sent the message to 'The Times' and the news agencies. As far as we are aware it has been published in 'The Times' only.

"We are anxious to secure the widest publicity for the message at this juncture. Accordingly we print the message in full:

Representatives of the Christian Churches in England are convinced that a real settlement will do much to maintain the spirit of fellowship and co-operation for the Continued on Page Four, Col. Three

WARTHER

Norterly winds, moderate or fresh; local showers of rain or hail; cold.

MISLEADING THE NATION

Our Reply to Sir John Simon's Innuendos and Charges

In his speech in the House of Commons on Thursday Sir John Simon made much play with the statement that is ceasing to work on Monday night certain workers had broken their contracts with their employers. He went on to argue that this proved that a general stoppage differed essentially from a stoppage in a single industry. He concluded by saying that the "attack on the community" had deprived the miners of a great deal of the sympathy they thoroughly deserved. The same speech was broadcast this morning.

There is, as far as the Trade Union Movement is concerned, no "attack on the community." There is no "attempt to set up a rival Government." There is no "challenge to the Constitution." The workers have exercised their legal and long-established right of withholding their labour, in order to protect the miners against a degradation of their standard of life, which is a menace to the whole world of labour.

It is, in the exercise of that right, contracts have, in certain instances, been broken, that incident, as Sir John Simon must be well aware, cannot, with any show of reason, be used to give to the present struggle the sinister character which he has chosen to ascribe to it.

On the contrary, as has repeatedly been explained by the General Council, its origin and its object are both purely industrial.

It began because the Government first refused to secure the suspension of the miners' notices, in order that discussions might continue free from the threat of a lock-out, and then abruptly broke off negotiations on the pretext of an incident of which the Trade Union representatives had no knowledge. It will continue until the Government is willing to resume negotiations for an honourable termination of the Mining Dispute.

Sir John Simon spoke of the "sympathy" which the miners "thoroughly deserved." His sympathy would have been appreciated better if it had been given at a somewhat earlier date, and if it were not confined to words.

Had the Trade Union Movement not responded to their appeal for assistance, the miners would have been condemned to struggle unaided against the monstrous terms imposed by the minesowners. The sympathy which counts has found expression in the spontaneous movement of generous indignation which has rallied the workers to their defence throughout the length and breadth of the country.

SILENT ARSENAL AT WOOLWICH

"Not One Case of Black-legging Reported"

50,000 OUT

From Our Special Correspondent

The silent strike holds sway in Woolwich. The great Arsenal and Dockyard area is like an industrial mausoleum. No sound of a hammer breaks the stillness throughout the hundreds of workshops and not a wheel is turning.

The sight to ten thousand workers who in normal times inhabit during working hours this vast hive of metalworking activity, now bemi-ing to their picket duties, playing cards or billiards at one of the many Labour clubs in the district or strolling down the street with comrades.

I was told stories of naval ratings and troopers, as guards within the Arsenal and dockyards, but force is futile.

LEY YOURSELVES IF AT WORK!

The General Council requires that all workers who are still in service or employment shall contribute 2s. per cent. of their wages to the strikers.

This levy should be remitted to the General Council through the Headquarters of the Unions concerned.

Other contributions should be sent to X6, Trades Union Congress, Eastern-square, London, S.W.

Railwaymen’s Fine Discipline

LOCNO. UNION MEMBERS ‘AS USUAL’


CLERKS’ GOOD REPORT

Quiet confidence prevails among the members of the National Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, which, as most people know, is one of the three great unions catering exclusively for railway workers.

Mr. J. Bradly, general secretary of the L.R.E.F., reports that his union in this strike is “as usual,” that is, practically out to a man, and prepared to stand to the end.

From the reports of delegates throughout the whole of Great Britain, we are unanimous as to the solidity of the union’s position. A sympathetic vote of A.R.L.E.F. has come in, even the Isle of Wight being closed.

The L.R.E.F. claims that 100,000 trains that may be running are being worked by subordinate officers of the company in the local department, and possibly one or two non-union black boxes, but they will have not the slightest effect.

He adds: It is easy, as the Government tries to do, to show a large number of trains as running, because one has made a number of journey trips, each of which is called and looked at as a train, but railwaymen say that the present position is little more than appearances.

Mr. Cramp’s Message

The excellent reports already given from the branches of the National Union of Railwaymen are repeated in the latest bulletin.

This morning the following telegram was dispatched by Mr. C. T. Cramp to the branches of the N.U.R.:

3000 500 1000 2500 1000

He adds: “There are no express trains running; there is no work for the expressmen.”

In a letter to the branches Mr. Cramp says that there is absolutely no reason for the agitation now going on. The Gazette reports to the contrary are all absolutely baseless.

Mr. Cramp adds that the reports that the government has made for running a service from London to Rugby are not trustworthy.

Civil Servants Help

Export of Coal to England Forbidden

The Executive of the French General Confederation of Labour has instructed its officials to prevent exports of coal to England.

The Polish, Czechoslovak and Mexican trade unions have also instructed their members to prevent the export of coal to England or the burning of British ships at Danzig or in Mexican ports.

A RUSSIAN T.T.OFFER

The offer in the foreign press yesterday that an offer of assistance had been made by Russian trade unions was confirmed this morning by a definite communication being offered to the General Council. The Council informed the Russian Trade Unions that a courteous communication, that they would be willing to accept it, had been received.

THE ENGLISH TRADES UNION COUNCIL has agreed that the London railway company shall have a full supply of electricity.

LOYALTY IN MIDLANDS

Miners Keeping True to Federation

EAST SOLID

Loyalty to their Federation is the paramount consideration of the strikers in the Auslands and Eastern Counties.

NOTTINGHAM: Railways, tramways and miners are out to a man. The News and Jersey newspapers are all printed by hand, and the whole of the printing is being done by hand.

NORTHAMPTON: The coal and stone from the pits were sent to the coal merchants and the miners have a special service for the coal merchants.

WORCESTER: Building trade operatives, with the exception of those engaged in the manufacture of wheels, are striking.

LINCOLN: In the face of a notice threatening dismissal to all corporation workers who strike, the miners have decided to come out and the notice has been withdrawn.

RUGBY: The strikers are firm but cheerful.

COVENTRY: Mr. Walter Givens, secretary of the Coventry Trades Council, estimates that 60 per cent. of the Coventry membership of the union is out of work, and that the strike is costing the miners 10 shillings a week.

PEACEFUL CONDITIONS AT GREAT RAILWAY CENTRE

Eleven thousand railwaymen are out at the Great Railway Centre, and the police are entirely satisfied, and the behaviour of the strikers exemplary.

The Chief Constable of the county, Mr. Major Malcolm, states that if this state of things continues no extra police will be required.

The non-payment of wages to workers at the Great Railway Centre was not due to the strike of the clerical staff who usually make up pay-presidents, but to the neglect of strong protest by the Central Strike Committee, which was not supported by the miners.

In addition, the Civil Service Clerical Association has decided to abstain from services among its members a voluntary fund to aid the wives and children of the miners.

WORLD SYMPATHY

Messages of support and sympathy have been sent to the South African Trades Union Congress, by the New Zealand Alliance of Labour, by the Australian railway unions and by a number of Trades and Labour Councils throughout the Empire.
**THE BRITISH WORKER**

**£2 For A Full Week's Work**

**What Miners Really Earn**

**AND HOW THE MINEOWNERS PROPOSE TO CUT WAGES**

The real issue in the struggle is wages—miners' wages. It is important, therefore, to make everyone understand those wages and what those proposed reductions would mean. In this article the weekly wage is fully explained.

In the first issue of the Barran Wages, a table was printed showing average weekly wages for different districts and the reduction demanded by the owners. I am now to show, with a well-informed correspondant, what the figures mean in figures in the returned by the coal owners.

We will take South Wales as an example.

The average wage for the whole of the coalfield in the month of February was 66.4d. a day. This covers all the districts below the under-miners.

Weekly for a 45-day week, it means an average of 86s. a week.

**Cut of 16s. lid. a Week**

The daily average under the miners' proposals would be $7.56, or a 45-day week 44s. 6d. Thus, the miners' wage would be the same as in previous years. If the owners still want to pay a smaller wage, they are either out of touch or have no idea of what they are doing.

The wages that the miners demand is based on the cost of living in South Wales and the coal price list. The average wage in South Wales for 45 days is $62.82, or an average of 86s. a week.

**Less Than £2 a Week**

There are deductions for explosives, tools, etc., which make a hole even in that low figure.

And, remember, the miners are only idle through men under whose control they have no control, that they could be back on the job in a year or two. They could be making $40 a week.

**SOLID AND ORDERLY**

Northern Workers Mean to Win

**MORE IDLE**

From all parts of the north come assurances that the stoppage is complete and is being carried on in a peaceful manor.

**HULL**

A slightly more animated and orderly demonstrations daily. Strike Commissions are being formed and their reports are being published. The strike is holding. Owing is ability to the committee that has discontinued for the time being permits for transport. GREW: Thousands of men assembled last night in proximity to the railway company's general offices to demonstrate against non-payment of wages. Tension was high, but the Board, Chief busman of the Strike Committee, appealed to the crowd to assist the police in securing order, and this was the desired effect. ILKESTON: Local authorities are rationing food and coal supplies. Attempts have been made to distribute food and coal to the authorities. All workers solid.

**HALIFAX**

A statement issued by 2,000 workers, 600 tramwaymen marched to the train depot and handed in uniform in support of the strike. **BRADFORD.** No goods trains have left or arrived since the strike began. Only one goods train against the normal daily service of 340. Works generally closed for want of coal or transport.

**WIGAN**

Complete and unanimous. The council, consisting of the police court cases since in normal times. From Wigan. **STOCKTON.** 400 men have been discharged in the last week, and they are being notified to the authority. All workers solid.

**SPLENDORE A. E. U.N.Y.**

Covetsey Meammen Commended for Joining Strollers

It is estimated that 80 per cent. of the members of the Syndicate who are working at Covetsey yesterday morning, and they were commended at a big meeting held on Pool Meeting. A considerable number of non-members have also come out, and of these about 100 have signed on at the A.E.U. offices. There has not, so far, been a single instance of disorder. Neither tram nor buses are running, and no newspapers are published locally.

**FLOUR MILLS STOP**

Mercy Supplies Held Up By Stoppage at Birkenhead

The flour mill at Birkenhead Industry is virtually at a standstill owing to about 1,000 men in the Birkenhead mill engaged in the strike. A protest was made to the Rank, Ltd., and Paul Bros. joining the strike.

For two or three days the men have not been loading four of any of the mills.

**MISERABLE (A. E. V. N.)**

"If the miners have to starve, it is better to starve in God's pure air than to fight, and to starve for the sake of the miners. Having to work."—Mr. Richards, Labour member for Houghton-le-Spring, in the County Assembly.

Miners at Clitheroe have closed their engine house and are running all sorts of vehicles, including an ice-cream van, bread, and to the nearest town.
An Industrial Issue Only!

The General Council does NOT challenge the Constitution. It is not seeking to substitute unconstitutional government. Nor is it desirous of undermining our Parliamentary institutions. The sole aim of the Council is to secure for the miners a decent standard of life. The Council is engaged in an Industrial dispute. In any settlement, the only issue to be decided will be an industrial issue, not political, not constitutional. There is no Constitutional crisis.

STUDYING WORKERS

Builders Show Strike Is Not "Against the Community"

The care taken by the Strike Organisation to avoid wherever possible possible interference with the convenience of the community is well illustrated in the following circular issued by the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives to all affiliated societies, over the signatures of Mr. Thomas Barron and Mr. STAND BY!

"Stand by me!" said the Government.

Twelve years since, in 'Fourteen,' The Country's in a fix, lad. And now the War is over Count on Us to stand by you! * * *

"Stand by us!" says the Government.

In Nineteen-Twenty-six, There's trouble in the air, lad, Steel in a fix, Burgin, have cancelled Count on Us to stand by you! * * *

"Oh hark! the twelve years' Echo: Count on Us to stand by you."

TOMFOOL.

MINERS' GREAT SOLIDARIETY

"Tide of Public Sympathy is With Us"*

BEWARE OF RUIMOURS

Quiet confidence prevails throughout the coalfields. "From every part of the country, I say the Miners' Federation yesterday, 'we receive reports of the magnificent solidarity both of our members and of the workers as a whole in the struggle for justice.'"

The following message was given to the Barras Woman from the Federation Executive to all the members: "The tide of public sympathy is with us, and our cause grows daily stronger, as the Constitutive action of the Government in breaking off negotiations is better understood."

"Do not be menaced by false rumours, which are circulated by our opponents with the object of raising suspicion and disunion. Your Executive is fighting, and will continue to fight, in your interests."

"We stand by the declaration of the General Council that 'in our view the wages and working conditions of miners are already so depressed as to render it imperative to seek for redress in the legislature through legislation in their standards of life or the abrogation of the present standard of wages."

"Be calm and confident and victory will be ours."

"Signed on behalf of the Executive, T. H. M. FYNN, President. A. F. J. ROBERTS, Secretary. W. P. RICHARDSON, Treasurer."

MESSAGES FROM WOMEN

Supplementing this message, Mr. A. J. COOK said that all was quiet in the mining districts. No Miners' Wives were being cared for, and the miners were co-operating with all other workers in maintaining order. "The men," he added, "are sending telegrams from the pits and the underground thanks to the T.U.C., and their determination to secure a living wage in this great struggle."

SCOTS STAND FIRM

No Goods Trains: Area Committee to Preserve Order.

From Scotland the news is that the men are firm in their demands. In the district the strength is 100 per cent. Area committees have been constituted to preserve order, on the initiative of the area committee.

No goods trains have come into GLASGOW since the stoppage, and only one mail in ordinary trains goes out. All ferry-men employed in transporting goods from the dock and railway shores struck yesterday, also the employees at Queen's Wharf.

The General Council of the Scottish Trades Union Congress reports that more men leaving work, otherwise no change in the national Scottish position.

At Seals and Dawson a transport driver speaking at St. Vincent's Hall, Glasgow, was of the opinion that all was quiet and the men were willing to travel on urgent business are being invited to apply for permits.

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