Meditations of a Trade Unionist on Reading Mr. Baldwin's Latest Guarantees to Strike-Breakers.

So you will "guarantee" that all I'd lose.
In Union benefits should be made up.
And might keep your promise, though the woes
Of them that gave up everything to
And now are staring with their wives and kids
Make one a bit suspicious; still, you assure!
"Also you promised you'd protect
And save my bones and make it safe for me.
To walk about and work and earn
My keep,
I'm not afraid for that. I know my mates;
They're decent, quiet chaps, not
Nighthawks.
They wouldn't try to murder me, Not they!

But could you make them treat me as a bas.
Or shield me from their cold, contemptuous eyes?
Could you restore the pride of comradeship?
Could you call back my ruined self-respect,
Give me protection from my bitter shame?
From self contempt that drives out happiness?
Such guarantees are not in mortal power.
I'm sticking to my mates: That's my reply.

Lord BALFOUR ANSWERED

Day by day in the Cabinet's newspaper, Mr. Churchill, acting as its super-editor, publishes articles by prominent public men. These are suspiciously like one another.

This morning's contribution is signed "Balfour," but the hand almost all through is the hand of Churchill, who is trying, still, to create panic by representing an industrial dispute about wages as an attempted revolution.

Lord Balfour must know perfectly well that the Trade Unions have no revolutionary, no political aims. They are simply doing their utmost, in the only way open to them, to prevent the wages of an important body of workers from being driven down to a point which the mineowners themselves have admitted to be "miserable."

The reference to the Strike being directed by a "relatively small body of extremists" again betrays Mr. Churchill's hand. It is mere violent, headlong, foolish propaganda—foolish because no sensible person will believe it. It is impossible that Lord Balfour can suppose Mr. Pugh, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Bovin, and other members of the General Council, who have always been moderate, reasonable men, to have been suddenly transformed into "extremists" as rash and reckless as Mr. Churchillhimself.

Such argument as Lord Balfour's article contains is very easily disposed of. The charge that the Strike aims at depriving people of food

(a) Suppresses the well-known offer of the General Council to prevent this, an offer which was rebuffed;
(b) is completely disproved by the fact that food supplies are practically as usual.

The complaint that "the conveniences of civilised life are
Continued on Page Four, Col. Three.
THE BRITISH WORKER

Watching The Trains—Stay In

NATION BEHIND THE T.U.C.

What a London Park Meeting Revealed

555 COLLECTION

The quiet determination of the men on strike has impressed the outside public. The strikers' confidence and enthusiasm are contagious. They have spread to other sections of the nation.

"They don't look a bit unemployed," remarked a young woman onlooker, who stood on the steps of a large wooden villa while a procession of transport strikers, encircled and in Sunday attire, marched in front of the house.

The immense crowd in the park gave a clear indication of where the sympathy of the British public was by the crowd. While a third of them were of the class which the Press loves to term the "noble undeserving public," bank and insurance clerks, small shopkeepers, holders of season tickeles, and others in Sunday villas.

555 Collection

It was they who contributed a large proportion of the 555 collection which culminated from Sunday's meetings in Brixton Park. Probably it was one of that class who threw a golden half-sovereign on to the platform, it may have been one of that class who bought the half-sovereign for 1s. 6d.

Elsewhere in this issue the British Workingman prints reports of meetings at which the enthusiasm and confidence of the strikers were manifested in no smaller measure. At every rally the British Workingman receives evidence that the radical, socialist and trade-union enthusiasm are permeating all sections of the British working class.

One incident, indicative of this, has arisen out of the efforts of the London Underground Company to introduce bindings into the railway workshops.

Foreman Out

The shift fitters, who belong to the National Fitters' Association, were told that from to-day they would have to carry out instructions from the chief mechanical engineer to supervise any men brought to them by the company. If they refused they would receive a week's wages in lieu of notice.

The men held a meeting, and 22 out of the 27 present decided to withdraw their labour. Three were given notice of suspension on account of advanced age, leaving only 20 to work. On Saturday morning an aged jobbing turner called on one of our Plymouth men and asked him to come down to the General Strike Office in neatly folded Treasury Notes.

The strike found its back, and owing to the strike the fitters sent their sympathy to the marchers on the march. Some complaints have already been received.
London's Splendid Loyalty

GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR LEADERS

Memorable Scenes in All Parts of the Metropolis

By Our Special Commissioner

Throughout London yesterday, going from West to East, I witnessed memorable scenes.

Magnificent gatherings of strong, determined men had assembled to show their leaders to work the miners' case before them in its latest resolute phase.

At the Blue Bell, Hammer Smith, where Mr. J. Chubb, M.P., a member of the General Council, spoke in the afternoon, I noted the splendid loyalty of the thousands inside and outside the meeting place. The hall was packed to the doors and it was estimated that only six thousand miners, typical of millions of others throughout the country, who, in Mr. Thomas's words, "are showing the most wonderful demonstration of solidarity that the world has ever seen," were present.

"I have never been," declared Mr. Thomas, "in favour of the strike," but he went on to show how, in spite of the labour of love they had shown in logging and plodding for pay, the struggle was forced upon them at the last minute by the Government.

There was another great cheer when Mr. Thomas asserted that while the workers had no right to say to an employer, "You must negotiate under the threat of a strike," it was equally right and just that the workers should not be asked to negotiate under the threat of a lock out.

Government's Trick

"It is not only disgraceful, it is absolutely wrong," Mr. Chubb, M.P., said, as the Government has done, the Constitu tional issue in this strike, explained Mr. Thomas.

"The only way we can explore this Government is by the exercise of our rights at the ballot box.

"From the West I met my way East, where the dockers were assembling in their thousands to support Mr. John Broomley, M.P., Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., both members of the General Council, and with the assistance.

Both meeting rooms in Camden Town Public Hall were packed, and there was the same cool determination here as in the West.

"You have folded your arms," said Will Thorne. "Keep them folded and you will win.

"Sit Tight—Keep Cool"

"We will not come into conflict with the forces of the Government unless we have to, because we believe in a policy of sitting tight and so honourable that it must triumph, if we sit tight and keep cool."

Downing with the situation, Mr. Durning said, "We have always been willing to continue negotiations and are now. The Cabinet broke them off in defiance of the best interests of the country."

"We have no necessity for police or soldiers in interfering," said Mr. Herbert Smith, president of the Miners' Federation.
Second Week Starts Magnificently WORSE THAN 230 YEARS AGO

Government's Contempt for the Public

ABSTRACT STATEMENTS


That description might well be applied to the British Gazette, which is being published by Mr. Baldwin's Cabinet.

In 1695 Ministers had not such a docile body of public as Mr. Churchill and his colleagues have to-day. They did not put out utterly absurd statements and expect them to be believed. And they did not at the same time prove the statements to be absurd! Yesterday, on the front page of the British Gazette, there was a prominent headline: "Chief Traders Almost Normal."

Yet this is what we find in the report which follows that heading. Bont and honorary traders working half-time; two firms mainly closed; Hull industries completely closed down; Mansfield works on half-time; large works closed at Derby, others to close; others to open.

And remember these reports apply mainly to industries not called out by the General Council. The British Gazette is unwittingly proving that the response in the trades that have been called out has been so splendid that the effect on other trades has been even greater than was expected.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Why Permits Have Been Withdrawn

The General Council offered to assist in distributing food supplies in a letter sent to the Prime Minister last week, but the strike was declared, but this offer was ignored, not even an acknowledgment being sent to the Council. But the General Council has called other bodies to meet with them to arrange with local Strike Committees, and permits were issued by the Secretary of State.

It has now to be reported that the government has ordered such permits to be withdrawn in many places. In order to avoid any conflict between the General Council and the Local Bodies in Council has felt it necessary to withdraw its permits in these cases.

BRIEF AND BRACING "Scotland at a Standstill": News Bulletins from All Quarters

"Scotland at a Standstill": News Bulletins from All Quarters

"Scotland at a Standstill" has been the order of the day, and the strikes in Scotland have been right along with the rest. The situation is getting worse and worse, and there is no end in sight.

The Mayor of Newport (Monsignor) has called the strikers for their splendid behaviour. Wonderfully enthusiastic meetings marked the week end.

At Swindon, where good order and the utmost propriety prevail, meetings are being held daily in the parks. The local Free Church Council has thrown open its schools for rent and recreation.

Southampton's Strike Committee reports that the position is getting stronger every day. Last night's demonstration was the largest ever held in Southampton, and remarkable enthusiasm was displayed.

GOING TO THE GUARDIANS

The Council attended the weekly meetings at Lanesboro, where the Guardians decided to relieve only families of destitute strikers who have been provisionally roused. Until the Board of Guardians' relief is granted, the strikers will be sent to the workhouse.

Manchester strikers continue to join the引起 in North Wales. No teams, under-bosses, or tabaccos are running. Workmen are out at Rea son Brickworks owing to the stoppage, and more than a thousand are idle at Brynoke Steel Works.

The workmen are determined to see that victory is not only for the short, but for all time. This was the message read to great meetings of workmen in Warrington, addressed by Mr. Ewan Williamson, M.P. The whole district is "loyal to the core."

The meeting was due to be held on the 1st, and had been postponed. In all parts of the country, district ministers of religion pleaded for justice for the workers' cause.

REPLY TO BALFOUR

Continued from Page One diminished "ignores what more and more people are saying every day" that the blame for this lies on Mr. Baldwin. Also, it forces us to ask if Lord Balfour has ever said for himself how vast numbers of miners and other workers are almost totally dependent on these civilized conveniences which are necessary to his comfort, and by which he is so much more comfortable. A very important admission is made by Lord Balfour about miners' wages. He says he cannot "under these existing conditions, be kept even at their present pitifully low level."

This makes it essential that the reorganization of the miners should be gone into thoroughly now. We are glad to find Lord Balfour in agreement with us on so important a point.

But we are sorry a public man of his reputation and long experience has not forgotten what he said to the nation as to such mensial stuff about the revolution which exists nowhere save in Mr. Churchill's heated and disorderly imagination.

THE BRITISH WORKER

THOSE EXTRA SPECIALS

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

Despite the fact that the Government's appeal for Extra Specials can not appear fairly explicit, there seems to be some doubt in what passes for the minds of certain stout fellows who are "Kings to perform a job of work in defence of the Baldwin coalition as to what they are letting themselves in for. The answer seems to be, a pretty soft number compared with that of, say, the persisting citizens who have enrolled in the O.M.S.

After all, five bob a day and the doings sounds juicy, does it not? On the other hand, it must also be admitted that standing for hours at a street corner in the rain to help

LEVI Y OURSELVES IF AT WORK!

The General Council requires that all workmen who are still in service or employment shall contribute a 6 per cent. of their wages in the strike fund.

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

Other contributions should be sent to the British Union Congress 33, Euston-square, London, S.W.1.

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