GREAT STRIKE TERMINATED

Trades Union Congress General Council Satisfied That Miners Will Now Get a Fair Deal

HOW PEACE CAME

Telegrams Already Sent to All Unions Concerned to Instruct Their Branches at Once: Miners Call Delegate Conference

The General Strike is over.

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress proclaimed this yesterday, having reached the conclusion, as a result of a number of conversations with Sir Herbert Samuel, that a satisfactory basis of settlement in the mining industry can now be formulated. The official announcement was issued by Mr. Arthur Pugh, after the General Council had been received by Mr. Baldwin and a number of his Cabinet colleagues.

The Miners' Federation Executive will report fully to a conference to be convened tomorrow.

The negotiations which led to the termination of the general strike were facilitated by the intervention of Sir Herbert Samuel, the Chairman of the Coal Commission.

Sir Herbert returned specially from Italy, where he was taking a short vacation, to ascertain whether his services could be utilised towards resolving the differences between the parties.

A number of informal conversations took place between him and representatives of the General Council, as a result of which the General Council reached the conclusion that a satisfactory basis of settlement could be formulated.

The Memorandum and the correspondence which is published in this issue indicates, in the view of the General Council, the lines along which negotiations can proceed to effect a solution to the many problems which the situation in the Coal Mining Industry has given rise.

The proposals, if approached and operated in a spirit of whole-hearted co-operation between all parties concerned, should result in a more equitable and durable relationship than has hitherto existed in the Coal Mining Industry.

The Movement has come in order to ensure a fair deal for the Miners. They are satisfied that that can now be achieved.

THE SUGGESTED SETTLEMENT

Sir Herbert Samuel's Memorandum suggests that coal negotiations should be resumed, and the subsidy renewed for a reasonable period as may be required for that purpose.

To decide wages and other disputes henceforth, a National Wages Board should be set up, on which there should be representatives of the two parties, with a neutral element and an independent chairman.

There is to be no revision of previous wage rates until it is clear that reorganisation of the industry, as proposed by the Coal Commission, will be effectively adopted.

A joint committee, or the National Wages Board, is to co-operate with the Government in preparing the legislative and administrative measures required.

After these points have been agreed and the Mines National Wages Board has considered every practical 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.
THE BRITISH WORKER

“Free and Unfettered Negotiation”

ENGINEERS STOP EVERYWHERE

Call Enthusiastically Obeyed

SHIPOYARDS OUT

The call to all unions in the engineering and shipbuilding trades affiliated to the Trades Union Congress to reinforce the gallant “first line” had already been magnificently answered before the news came of the calling-off of the strike.

The response to the call to work came from the engineering shops and shipyards on the Clyde to come out yesterday was magnificent.

Mr. Harry Hopkins, the A.E.U. organiser, states that in his 20 years’ experience he has never known the men to organise or enthusiasm as in this fight for a decent standard of existence. The withdrawal of all workers from the machine-shops and shipyards was, in his opinion, complete.

Barricades—Withdrawal of the engineers and shipyard workers has added probably 5,000 to those already called out. Most of the large works in the town are stopped.

Blackburn—Three thousand engineers on strike, affecting 20 foundries and engineering shops.

Bolton—Textile and general engineers have joined the strike.

Carlisle—Engineers and workers at the large factories have stopped work.

Catterick—All B.T.U. and Workers’ Union members at the factory, where electricity works are out.

Derby—All engineers ceased work last night. Complete deadlock rapidly developing.

Doncaster—A.E.U. men at Boston and Hornby’s ceased work last night.

Huddersfield—Engineers, accompanied by many non-union workers, ceased work to-day.

Hull—All engineers are out.

Hull—Five thousand more men, including dockers and beer-makers, struck work to-day.

Ikeston—Stables ironworks employees observed that call to stop, and have lined up with the strikers.

Ilkeston—Engineering workers ceased work last night, and the greatest enthusiasm prevails.

Liverpool—Local branch of the A.E.U. called its members out to-day, only two being left at work.

Manchester—A large section of the works of the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Company at Trafford Park have come to a standstill. About 4,000 men affected.

Newcastle—Reports show that 90 per cent. of the engineers on the Tyne called last night. Their marks will be added to considerably to-night. As many engineers, without holding a meeting, obeyed instructions to cease work.

Newport (Mon.)—Local engineers were locked out by the call to strike.

Rugby—With only one exception all members of the engineering unions, summoned this morning, and their marks will be added to considerably to-night. As many engineers, without holding a meeting, obeyed instructions to cease work. Altogether, the response has been magnificent.

Sunderland—All foundrymen and many engineers have joined the strikers’ ranks.

GENERAL COUNCIL’S MANIFESTO

Praise for Loyalty and Discipline of Whole Movement

After the announcement of their decision yesterday, the General Council met at Eccleston-square, and issued the following statement to Affiliated Societies, Trades Councils, and Strike Committees:

The General Council, through the magnificent support and solidarity of the Trade Union Movement, has obtained assurances that a settlement of the Mining problem can be secured which justifies them in bringing the general stoppage to an end.

Conversations have been proceeding between the General Council representatives and Sir Herbert Samuel, chairman of the Coal Commission, who returned from Italy for the express purpose of offering his services to try to effect a settlement of the differences in the Coal Mining Industry.

The Government had declared that under no circumstances could negotiations take place until the general strike had been terminated, but the General Council, as a result of the conversations with Sir Herbert Samuel and the proposals which are embodied in the correspondences and documents which are enclosed, that sufficient assurances had been obtained as to the times upon which a settlement could be reached to justify them in terminating the General Strike.

The General Council accordingly decided at their meeting to-day to terminate the general stoppage, in order that negotiations could be resumed to secure a settlement in the coal mining industry, free and unfettered from either strike or lock-out.

The General Council considered the practicability of securing a resumption of work by the members in dispute at a uniform time and date, but it was felt, having regard to the varied circumstances and practices in each industry, that it would be better for each Executive Council itself to make arrangements for the resumption of work of its own members. The following telegram was dispatched to you to-day:

“General Council T.U.C. have to-day declared General Strike terminated. Please instruct your members as to resuming work as soon as arrangements can be made. Letter follows."

PUGH. CITRINE.

Throughout the negotiations and during the whole of the stoppage, the General Council have declared that they have been fighting to protect the Miners against an intolerable degradation of their standard of life and working conditions. It was with this object, and with this object alone, that the General Council assumed the grave responsibility of calling upon its affiliated organisations to unite in strike action to enforce the cancellation of the lock-out notices, and the withdrawal of the new wages scale proposed.

The attack was at any time contemplated upon the established political institutions of the country, and it is a testimony to the loyalty and discipline of the Movement that disorders have been practically unknown.

The Unions cannot have maintained so resolutely and unreserved their generous and ungrudging support of the Miners can be satisfied that an honourable understanding has been reached.

The General Council accept the consequences of their decision with a full sense of their responsibility, not only to their own membership, but to the Nation at large. They have endeavoured throughout the crisis to conduct their case as industrial disputes have always been conducted by the British Trade Unions, without violence or aggression. The General Council feel, in taking the last steps to bring the crisis to an end, that the Trade Union Movement has given a demonstration to the World of discipline, unity and loyalty without parallel in the history of industrial disputes.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR PUGH, Chairman.
WALTER M. CITRINE, Acting Secretary.

HOW “B.W.” WON THROUGH

Paper Trouble and Way It Was Overcome

MR. BALDWIN MOVES

A great many inquiries have been made the last few days about our paper supplies and how we have been managed to appear every evening in spite of the Cabinet attempt to suppress us.

We were able to secure paper to carry on with when all we had was exhausted.

It was not quite the right size, but clever arrangements enabled the machines to take it, and we went on with the assurance of having enough to last us up to and including Thursday. At the same time we made every effort of effort to induce Mr. Baldwin to unhand the instructions given and to release the paper belonging to us at the docks and in a paper-mill.

These efforts were successful yester-day morning, and when the news came of the strike being over, we received a message that we could have a number of tons.

As this beginning a police raid. Then the attempt to starve us of paper. But we came through both troubles successfully.

So all’s well that ends well, and we thank our numberless friends for their kind anxiety on our behalf.

PRINTING TRADES.

The “British Worker” is asked to state that there will be meetings at 6 p.m. to-day (Thursday) of the representatives of the following organisations, all sections:

Paper Workers, N.S.O.P.A.

Machine Managers, Stereotypers.

No resumption of work by members of the foregoing organisations until the meetings have decided when work shall be restarted.

All officials of the chapel of the above-mentioned unions are advised to attend; they will be informed of the respective places of meeting.

JOHN HODGE’S MESSAGE

“I can say for myself and Arthur Pugh, that our men have rallied to the strike in a most enthusiastic manner. Calmness, courage, and trade union discipline will give us a splendid victory. Stand firm everyone!”—Message from Mr. John Hodge.

“GOLDEN CHARACTERS”

“The unblemished record of the Leicestershire miners in the last strike, written in golden characters in my memory,” said the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, addressing a meeting of workers in the Coalville mine’s district yesterday.
Miners' Thanks To Their Allies

PREMIER'S PLEA IN COMMONS

"Look Forward, Not Backward"

NO MALICE

When word was put about that the strike was to be ended there was great excitement in the House of Commons, and the floor and galleries were crowded in expectation of a statement by the Prime Minister. The news of the intention of the Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, to come to the House was announced by Mr. Henderson. Mr. Baldwin said that the T.U.C. Council had decided to come to the House and make the announcement. He said: "It would be the immediate effect of my efforts and my colleagues of bringing about an early and final settlement between the parties in the mining dispute in the interests of securing the earliest possible settlement."

"The only thing I would add at this stage I would point out that I believe the victory that has been won, is a victory of common sense, not of any part of the country, for the common sense of the best part of the United Kingdom." (Cheers.)

And so it is of utmost importance at a moment like this that the whole British people should not look backwards, but forward. (Cheers.)

"We should resume our work in the spirit of co-operation, pulling behind us all malice and all vindictiveness." (Cheers.)

DEBATE AT EARLY DATE

Mr. MacDonald, in reply, said that the statement of the Prime Minister was likely to happen at once—the application for a public inquiry of the large strike that had been indicated in what the Prime Minister had said, and the look it that it was in the interest of the House that it should be kept in close touch with the events and the sequel events.

He added, if the Prime Minister had had the opportunity of speaking to him, he would have asked if he had considered the best time for a sort of survey of the situation, and for a full statement on the crisis when he was able to make.

The Prime Minister replied that he had recognized a fuller statement would be necessary at an early date as possible, but Mr. Macdonald would be aware that there was a great deal to be done, and many things to be brought out. He asked Mr. Macdonald to keep in touch with him. It would be impossible in the course of the day to state anything.

Mr. Macdonald: "I shall be glad to fall in with that suggestion, but much depends on how this position is represented. (Labour cheers.) I appeal to him to make arrangements, so that the House may be kept in touch with everything that is done, and that this discussion should take place at the earliest possible moment." (Cheers.)

Messages of sympathy continued to pour in to T.U.C. headquarters from all parts of the world. A great variety of cards and notes, telegrams, and written messages, have been received by the T.U.C. in France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Georgia, Cuba, Mexico, Scandinavia, etc.

DELEGATE CONFERENCE TO-MORROW

Pits to Remain Idle Pending Delegates' Decisions

The Miners have expressed to the T.U.C. their "profound admiration of the loyalty of the T.U.C. as displayed by all workers who promptly withdrew their labour in support of the Miners' standards."

Mr. A. J. Cook, the miners' secretary, sent the following telegram to all districts yesterday—

"Miners must not resume work pending decision of the national delegate conference to be held next at the King'sway Hall, London, 10 a.m. Please send delegates."

PUBLIC STAGGERED BY FIGURES

How Owners' Demands Would Have Hit Lancashire

One of the outstanding features of the public meetings and discussions since the strike began was the eagerness of the public to learn the facts about miners' wages.

People in general way that the wages were low and that the mine-owners had locked out the miners and made them still lower. They had seen figures, but the crisis brought home to them the vital importance of the work and that they are eager for very little detail that can be given.

The Barnes Woman has each day bought to eat for that desire, and it has been a common sight in London to see crowds carefully studying the figures that enterprising newspapers and others had posted copies on their windows.

We have given details from South Wales, Northumberland and Durham. Let us to-day go to Lancashire, another of the Great British coalfields.

32s. 6d. a Week

The wage of the coal-getter, the highest-paid miner, is in Lancashire 4s. 6d. a day. The owners want to reduce that to 3s. 4d. At the best that could only mean a wage of 4s. 6d. The average amount is more than 3s. a week, so that the net effect has begun to be barely over 42s, even for a full week.

As a matter of fact, the miners have for a long time been allowed to work only three or four days a week, so that on the owners' terms the wage would be 28s. 4d. to 32s. 6d. a week, less deduction.

PRINTERS REFUSE

Paris "Daily Mail": Efforts to Increase Output Fail

Efforts to increase the output of the Paris edition of the Daily Mail by printing extra copies in the offices of French newspapers, have been thwarted by the action of French trade unions.

In the offices of the machine men, and in the Commercio offices the com- moners refused to touch the Daily Mail job.

NO NEWSPAPERS

District Council's Free Library Decision

Aberdare District Council has refused to function the Coal Emergency Order. The decision was come to on the motion of the Labour members, who voted against their opponents by 15 to 4. Another resolution adopted was that there shall be no newspapers or publications be printed in the Free Library room. This decision has been adversely criticised by ratapapers, and it is stated that a public protest meeting is to be called.

LIBERAL GIFTS

One of the most surprising and gratifying aspects of the Strike has been the friendliness and generosity of so many people who are not directly or indirectly associated with it and who in previous labour struggles have almost solidly taken a hostile attitude. The solidarity of the Trade Union Movement has been shown every day in the support given by the leaders and the members of the Trade Union Movement; they have shown their sympathy, not only to the strikers themselves, but also to the supporters of the strikers, and by contributing liberally to the collections.

In such typical "middle-class" areas as the suburbs of London, large open air meetings have been addressed nightly by trade union speakers. The audiences at these have consisted chiefly of City workers, not directly associated with the Trade Union Movement; they have shown their sympathy, not only to the strikers, but also to their leaders, and by contributing liberally to the collections, which amounted to a considerable amount.

When Mr. Thomas spoke on the same day at the Westminster Chamber, he had a large audience, and the speakers and typists eagerly gave their salaries and savings to the collection, which amounted to a considerable amount.

A negro came forward and handed up a pound note. "Helps strike," said he, in broken English.

Weekly subscriptions for the strike funds are being collected at Wembley Garden City, which has a number of "middle-class" population. An M.P. living there stated that the subscription list for the first week showed a total of £70.

"I am an Australian, just arrived on a visit to the old country, and I want to help the miners. Where should I send my cheque?" This was a telephone call received at the offices of the Daily Worker yesterday. It is typical of many messages from overseas.

"Middle-class" women everywhere, mothers of boys who fell in the war, have been greatly impressed by the news of the numbers of strikers who are wearing war medals. You hear them say, "This is not a strike against the country."

At Preston a gift of £50 has been made to the Workers' Fund, clearly not by a proletarian!

RUMOURS DENIED

The committee of the Daily Express House Chapel, representing more than 500 of the members, say it was wish to deny rumours current to the effect that they were about to return to work. "We remain solid behind the miners until an honourable settlement has been arrived at," wrote the committee.

At a municipal by-election on the, the trade union candidate was returned for the first time in 190 years, and at the general election for the first time on record.
Scheme for Mines Settlement

It is proposed that any new agreement should, if practicable, be simpler in form, and that it should 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;

if any new adjustments should be made, provision should be made for such adjustments by the Wages Board from time to time.

So long as unemployed miners are available, there should be no recruitment of other labour over 18 years of age.

Measures should be provided to deal with workers displaced as the result of the closing of uneconomic collieries.

The following letters have been exchanged between Sir Herbert Samuel and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress:

May 12th, 1926.

Dear Mr. Pugh,

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
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 upon 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 these 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 to, 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 be

(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 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.

ORDER EVERYWHERE

General Council Congratulates
Strikers on Their Conduct

Every observer of the situation, both British and foreign, is impressed by the good order everywhere maintained. It constitutes a record for a dispute of this kind.

It shows how thoroughly the workers accept the insistence of the General Council that this is a purely industrial dispute.

The General Council congratulates trade unions on their magnificent response to its appeal for discipline. See that the record is kept up.

CANNIBALISM?

One of the sights of London yesterday was an exquisite luncheon labelled For food, and bearing a cargo of substantial men and women.

MEN OF U.S. HELP US

American crews have refused to handle any of the pumps on four American oil ships arriving at Tilbury.