

THE BRITISH WORKER

OFFICIAL STRIKE NEWS BULLETIN

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PRICE ONE PENNY

MR. BALDWIN ON THE SITUATION

Buses, Trams, and Tube
Agreements

RAILWAY TERMS

In the House of Commons yesterday afternoon, Mr. BALDWIN made a brief statement on the situation.

With regard to the docks and certain forms of transport, he said negotiations were still going on and pursuing their normal course.

Work was to be resumed on buses, trams and the underground railway system.

Agreement had been reached, but the terms were not yet available.

With regard to the railways, he had received a telephone message from Mr. J. H. Thomas, who hoped that by the time he (the Premier) was making this statement a settlement would be signed between the parties, which Mr. Thomas believed would be satisfactory to all.

He then made his statement on the mines situation given elsewhere.

Mr. RAMSAY MACDONALD said that so long as they had the assurance that negotiations were going on relating to the three important points, the best service that could be rendered was to say as little as possible.

They were very glad to hear the Prime Minister's statement, and he wished to offer one observation with deference. This was on the mines, and is reported elsewhere with Mr. Baldwin's statement.

RAILWAY TERMS FOR RESTART

Signed by Representatives
of the Three Unions

Terms for the resumption of work on the railways were reached yesterday afternoon after a conference lasting several hours between representatives of the three unions and the railway managers.

Pending further instructions railwaymen had been ordered to remain on strike, and this order was obeyed.

The terms agreed upon were set out in the following agreement:—

(1) Those employees of the railway companies who have gone out on strike to be taken back to work as soon as traffic officers and work can be found for them. The principle to be followed

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WEATHER FORECAST

Wind N. to N.W., light or moderate; some showers or occasional rain; cool.

RESUMING WORK

Obstacles Placed by Employers
Being Cleared Away

NEW COAL PROPOSALS

During the whole of yesterday discussions were going on between Trade Union officials and employers with the object of removing difficulties in the way of returning to work.

These efforts met with some measure of success. The Railway Unions made an agreement with the companies, the London omnibuses and trams will be running again to-day. In other industries negotiations are still in progress.

Mr. Baldwin's proposals for a Mines settlement have been presented to the two parties for consideration. They include some but not all the points of the Samuel Memorandum; they suggest reductions of wages.

THE NEXT STEP

In every industrial dispute in the history of working-class struggles the chief weapon of our opponents has been the attempt to mislead the rank and file, to create suspicion and mistrust of those upon whom fell the responsibility for the conduct of the dispute, and faking decisions in the interest of those they are called upon to represent.

The "poison gas" of misrepresentation has always been a weapon of the employing class during industrial warfare.

In the present case it is particularly apparent because, not only is it desired to disorganise the Trade Union forces and destroy the morale of the workers, but a determined attempt is being made to make political capital out of an industrial conflict.

Without scruple, the decision of the General Council is termed an "unconditional surrender." Statements made even by individuals in our own ranks are gleefully used by the most reactionary of the Press, including the Government organ, to discredit those upon whom has fallen the enormous task of conducting the policy of the dispute.

Those who looked forward to utilising the present opportunity for "smashing the Trade Unions" evidently believed that the General Strike would continue—that, without any effort to find a means of carrying out the purpose of the strike (which was to get negotiations established in the mining industry on an equitable basis) the Unions would be allowed to proceed until, by a process of attrition and a complete breakdown of the economic life of the country, "unconditional surrender" by the Trade Union Movement would be obtained, and the position would then arise where the purpose they had in view could be safely accomplished.

If those responsible for the conduct of the Strike had permitted the Movement to fall into that position, they would have been guilty of a gross betrayal of the trust reposed in them.

If the Trade Unionists of the country expected that the decision of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress—whatever it was—would not be deliberately misrepresented, they have not learned much from past experience.

The position created by the General Strike was not one of a dispute in a single industry. The foolish action of the Government in attempting to represent the stoppage as a challenge to the Constitution created a position where formal negotiations were impossible. It became, therefore, necessary, to provide means for focussing the opinion of the general public, who, no less than those conducting the

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PREMIER'S COAL PROPOSALS

Scheme Subject to Both
Parties Accepting

£3,000,000 SUBSIDY

Suggested Temporary Wage Reductions

The Prime Minister last night sent to the miners and to the owners proposals which in his opinion form a reasonable and fair basis for a settlement of the mining dispute.

The proposals are as follow:—

(1) In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, all practical means for improving the organisation of the industry and increasing its efficiency shall be adopted.

(2) The Government shall take the following immediate action:—

(a) Introduce and endeavour to pass this session Bills to give effect to the proposals of the Commission regarding amalgamations, to provide for a welfare levy on royalty owners and to further the establishment of pit-head baths, to restrict recruiting in mines, to set up for the coal-mining industry a National Wages Board on the lines of the Railway Wages Board.

(b) Set up the proposed National Fuel and Power Council, which will contain representatives of Labour.

(c) Set up the proposed Wagon Committee.

(d) Appoint a committee to investigate the question of selling syndicates.

(e) Appoint a committee to examine the profit-sharing proposals of the Commission and family allowances.

(f) Prepare a scheme for the establishment of pit committees.

(g) Prepare plans for the assistance of men displaced from pits.

(h) Set up a committee on housing in colliery districts.

(3) Coal Advisory Committee. Before any legislation is introduced, or committee set up, or other definitive step taken by the Government towards giving effect to any of the recommendations of the Commission, a full statement of the step proposed shall be laid before the Coal Advisory Committee of the Secretary for Mines.

It shall also be the duty of the Advisory Committee to review from time to time the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission, and to make recommendations on the subject.

In the event of any recommendations made by the committee not being adopted by the Secretary for Mines, he shall lay them before Parliament,

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Mr. Baldwin and the Employers

HOW THINGS GO IN SCOTLAND

Position Slowly Being Straightened Out

WORKERS AFFECTED

The Scottish General Council states that the position is gradually being straightened out. Dockers, railwaymen and printers remain out. Other trades which were affected are gradually resuming.

The Glasgow Central Strike Committee is trying to secure the reinstatement of tramway employees.

Labour councillors who interviewed the Lord Provost of Glasgow in regard to the standing off of tramway employees, were told the tramways were still an Emergency Service. He assured the councillors he would try to obtain a resumption of work which would guarantee peace.

Members of the Electrical Trades Union, also employed on tramways, have been suspended or dismissed. Electricians on the subway are again out, against an alleged unfair dismissal.

The Scottish Typographical Association has decided that members remain out until there is a settlement with the Newspaper Press. The Natsopa and kindred unions standing by are absolutely united. Not one Natsopman is back.

Glasgow N.U.R. Strike Committee states a few men resumed on a misunderstanding, but all are coming out again.

There were no Glasgow Capitalist papers yesterday except the emergency Press, four small sheets, printed by foremen and managers from the Outram Office.

Glasgow A.E.U. members and other skilled men, numbering over 2,000, are locked out by Singers' sewing machine factory at Kilbowie, because they stopped on Wednesday.

Engineers are also out at railway shops. A number of men have been dismissed in other establishments.

Building industry employees have resumed. Joiners were not allowed to re-start by some firms, who are closed down until Monday as a reprisal. These firms are a minority. The majority ignored the instruction of their organisation to keep the men out until Monday.

PLUS FOUR DOCKERS

Glasgow Dockers' branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union report all men out. Some plus four volunteers are unloading cargoes. They are paid £5 a week plus three meals daily and sleep aboard liners in dock.

Railway Clerks' Association report their members are making an excellent stand. Only a few have resumed in and around Glasgow, while in some places men who were not on strike originally have now stopped work.

Members of the Scottish Horse and Motormen's Union resumed to-day.

In Aberdeen railwaymen almost to a man have refused to sign any new agreement and the hold-up is again virtually complete.

Much resentment has been caused by the victimisation on Aberdeen Corporation tramways, employees with long service to their credit having been informed that they can only resume work as new entrants, thus forfeiting their superannuation claims.

Edinburgh railwaymen pledged themselves at a meeting on Cullton Hill not to return except on the old terms. Three thousand men repeated the pledge after the chairman.

PREMIER'S 'ONE PLEDGE'

Mr. J. H. Thomas's Fine Speech in the House of Commons

Speaking in the House of Commons on Thursday night, Mr. MACDONALD pointed out how that morning an address had been published to the nation in a spirit and temper that were magnificent.

Unfortunately there was a great contrast between what the Prime Minister had said the previous day, and what was in the official Gazette that morning. (Labour cheers.) It was not helpful but was only provocative.

Nobody knew better than the Prime Minister, after all that had happened, how much courage it had required to do what had been done on Wednesday. What had been the response? Contracts had been broken and bad temper had been aroused, and at the moment of peace the most optimistic of them felt that the peace was only to be a whitened sepulchre.

"SH ER NONSENSI"

He was informed that there were more men out than on Wednesday, and that the men had come out who went in, not because they wanted to hold up the community—that was sheer nonsense—but because they believed that after peace the conditions that were being attempted to be imposed on those who wanted to go back were such that would make it impossible to continue any industry under peaceful conditions. (Labour cheers.)

They were not going to crawl back, and they were not going to be treated as human beings with the yoke of absolute subordination riveted to their flesh. He desired the House to make its appeal on behalf of healing, restoration and restitution. (Labour cheers.)

THE PREMIER

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.

"ONLY ONE PLEDGE"

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 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 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 em-

ployers and trade unions to meet immediately, a meeting had been arranged with one group of employers.

"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 said he did not know who was responsible, but the declaration of the official publication of the Government, "Total Surrender," and so on, went to the two million men who refused to surrender to the Germans. (Cheers.) The House could imagine the bitterness that followed.

He refused to believe that the Prime Minister was aware of the fact that the Government itself had broken, not only the spirit, but the letter of his broadcast speech, of his statement on Tuesday, and of his statement to the House that day.

This was a copy of an Admiralty order: "Following the Admiralty decision as regards men on strike; establishment men are not to be allowed to enter, but are to be suspended until further notice." Even if the House agreed with that order, which he refused to believe, how could it square it with the Prime Minister's speech? (Cheers.)

SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL

Then there was this War Office notice: "Notice to employees at War Office Department establishments. Men who have remained at work and men who have returned to work by May 12, will be given preference in employment irrespective of their former length of service." (Tory cheers.) That was not the most serious part. The order went on: "Attention is drawn to the provision of the regulations that all awards under the Superannuation Acts are subject to the condition that discharge at a person's own desire or due to his own default forfeits all previous service." That might be true, but was that the spirit of good will? (Cheers.)

WHAT MEN WERE TOLD

Mr. Thomas showed how one big employer—Tilling's garage, Bromley-road—had told its men that they could be engaged only on a temporary basis, and that they did not intend to make a further agreement with the existing union.

He concluded by appealing to employers in the House to give effect to the words of the Prime Minister. The situation that day was worse than it was on Wednesday. If there was no change, no man could predict what would happen, with four million men and women angry and bitter.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said he especially welcomed the assurance that the Prime Minister would not, as a result of what had happened, countenance any attacks upon the powers of the trade unions—(Tory cries of "No, no!")—upon Trade Unionism as such. (Tory cheers.) He would have been very glad if the right hon. gentleman could have gone further.

ELECTRICIANS' POSITION

Why Big Proportion of Men Have Stayed Out

VICTIMISATION

Many members of the Electrical Trades Union have refrained from resuming work, owing to the difficulties raised by employers.

"Full details of the national position have not yet been obtained," said Mr. Robert Prain, assistant general secretary of the Electrical Trades Union, to a BRITISH WORKER representative on Friday, "but a very large proportion have not yet returned to work.

"There have been a number of cases in various parts of the country of attempts by employers to victimise our men."

BUILDING WORKERS

The Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers states that practically all its members throughout the country have returned to work on the same terms as before they came out on strike, the employers having taken them back without raising any question.

This, however, does not apply to Liverpool, where the men refused a demand by the employers that they should come back on new terms. Consequently, the men there are remaining on strike.

IN OTHER TRADES

Swansea millers have returned. Bath building operatives have resumed work.

North and Port Talbot steel and (plate) works are preparing for resumption on Monday.

Engineering works at Peterborough have resumed, one firm, employing nearly 1,000, taking all its employees back. Corporation electricity workers have returned.

The five works of the United Turkey Red Co., in the Vale of Leven are still idle. No Loch Lomond steamer has sailed since the strike began.

L.M.S. carriage and wagon building works at Wolverhampton are announced to reopen on Monday.

Bradford Corporation electricity workers have returned to work on normal terms. Difficulties with respect to the return of the men employed in the Corporation building departments have been adjusted. Owing to the lack of coal and transport the general textile trade is working short time.

It is expected that
THE
DAILY HERALD
will
**RESUME PUBLICATION
ON MONDAY.**
It will continue its loyal
support of
**TRADE UNIONISM AND
LABOUR**
equally with
THE BRITISH WORKER
ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW

What the Public Should Know

BUSES & TRAMS AGAIN TO-DAY

Staffs Resuming on the Old Conditions

MORE TUBE TRAINS

The difficulties that arose over the resumption of work on London tubes, buses and trams have been removed, and services approaching normal will be in operation to-day.

Officials of the unions met representatives of the Underground, the London General Omnibus Co., and the allied tramways on Thursday night, and a settlement was officially announced yesterday morning.

The staffs resume on the old conditions. The "volunteers" on the tubes all finished yesterday. Some 150 "volunteers" are to be retained on the allied tramways, but they are to start at the bottom of the scale as new entrants.

ON THE UNDERGROUND

A statement issued from Electric House explained that owing to the continuance of the coal stoppage and to the necessary work which will have to be done in clearing up the power houses, it will not be possible to restore the full train services to-day but efforts will be made to bring them up to normal strength as rapidly as possible.

Certain omnibus routes in North and West London may not be running at their full strength until Monday.

TRAMWAY TERMS

The L.C.C. announces: "Terms of settlement have been agreed, under which the tramway service will resume forthwith, gradually increasing until a full service will be reached on Monday. The tramwaymen will be taken back and volunteers desiring to remain in the service will be retained."

Men on the Croydon Corporation tramways resumed work yesterday in accordance with the official arrangements.

IN THE PROVINCES

In most provincial towns difficulties about reinstatement of tram and bus workers have been overcome, the men being re-engaged on old terms and conditions, and normal services have been begun.

In a few instances the employers refused to reinstate two or three men.

Manchester tramwaymen considered the question of again withdrawing their labour. It was agreed to postpone decision till Sunday night.

Portsmouth Municipal Tramways Committee decided to adhere to its decision not to reinstate 80 strikers, whose places have been filled. All local strikers decided to remain out until the tramway strikers have been allowed to return to duty.

HELPING THE FIGHT

Funds for the strike fund are pouring in. A first instalment of £1,000 has been received from New Zealand trade unionists; Camberwell Trades Council has set up a strike fund, and has 68 collecting boxes and 400 collecting sheets in circulation; Zurich Socialists have decided to give the whole of their May Day collections, amounting to over £240, to the General Council; the Chairman of the Publicity Committee, Mr. E. J. Poulton, has received £25 for the strike fund from "Propagandist and Friends."

REOPENING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

How Sir H. Samuel Saved Cabinet from Fruits of Its Folly

Why was the General Strike declared?

Why was it called off?

What is now the position?

These are three questions which are exercising the minds of millions of workers, and to which it is desirable that an answer be given for the purpose of clarifying the position.

The General Strike was called to support the miners in resisting a lock-out to enforce an all-round reduction of wages as a preliminary to negotiation on the Royal Commission's Report, and as a protest against the action of the Government in breaking off negotiations in the Mining Industry, and thus leaving more than a million miners locked out at the mercy of the mine-owners, who were determined to attempt to starve them into submission.

On Wednesday, Sir Herbert Samuel, Chairman of the Coal Commission, put certain proposals to the General Council as a basis on which the General Strike might be settled, and the negotiations in the mining industry reopened. The terms included:—

The Terms

Renewal of the subsidy for a reasonable period, so that the miners might return to work on their present pay and conditions.

A definite undertaking that in the future there should be no revision of previous wage rates unless there are sufficient assurances that the system of reorganisation proposed by the Commission will be effectively adopted.

After this reorganisation has been agreed upon, if the financial advantages accruing from the reorganisation are not sufficient to restore the industry it is laid down that any future wage alteration must not affect adversely the wages of the lower-paid men, and must fix reasonable figures below which the wage of no mine worker should be reduced in any circumstances.

No new workers over 18 years of age to be recruited into the industry if unemployed miners are available.

Workers displaced by the closing of uneconomic pits to be transferred with Government assistance to other areas; to be maintained while unemployed by means of a supplementary Government grant in addition

to their ordinary unemployment benefit; and to be provided in the new districts with new houses that are to be rapidly constructed.

The T.U.C. came to the conclusion that the reopening of negotiations on terms such as these represented the attainment of the object for which the strike had been called.

Cabinet's Predicament

The matter then became one of procedure.

Having foolishly declared the general strike to be an attack on the constitution, the Government found that it could not make a move in the direction of negotiating on these terms without making an exhibition of itself as having "surrendered to the revolution."

The mediatorial presence of Sir Herbert Samuel, however, saved the Government from the fruits of its own reckless folly, for, although formally and publicly he appeared on the scene in quite an unofficial capacity, it was well understood on both sides that the terms he had mentioned represented the views of well-informed public opinion as to the basis on which a settlement of the mining problem might be effected.

Accordingly, on the strength of the assurances which it had obtained, the General Council felt justified in calling off the General Strike and thus permitting the reopening of negotiations.

Up to this point the position was quite clear.

Big Business

But the Government then created another foolishly embarrassing situation for itself by allowing the Press and employers to interpret the action of the General Council, very provocatively and quite inaccurately, as an "unconditional surrender."

Consequently, various bodies of employers made attempts to victimise men on their return to work, and to launch a general attack on trade union conditions.

This, in turn, has precipitated a number of national strikes on the part of the unions concerned.

General Council

The relation of the General Council to these strikes is not one of control or direction.

The General Council is giving advice with the object of unifying the action of the trade unions and ensuring fulfilment of the elementary trade union condition that there shall be no victimisation and no worsening of conditions as a result of the action taken by the various unions in the general stoppage.

GATESHEAD'S RECORD

Newcastle yesterday was quieter than at any time since the strike commenced. Gateshead has a very proud record. It is the borough with a Labour Board of Guardians, a Labour Council, and Labour member, and the centre of thousands of railwaymen and miners. There has not been a single case of disorder arising out of the strike so far as the citizens themselves are concerned, only outsiders being involved in certain proceedings yesterday.

RELIEF SCALES

The scales of relief as laid down by the Ministry of Health, and for which the dependents of men on strike or locked out should apply if they are in need, are as follows:—12s. per woman, 4s. per child (half to be given in kind).

VOLUNTEER KILLED

An electrical engineering pupil, Kenneth Reavell, of St. Andrew's, who was acting as a fireman on a cattle train from Norwich to London, was killed near Diss, his head striking a bridge.

DOCKERS AWAIT SETTLEMENT

No General Resumption of Work

REPORTS FROM PORTS

Pending the negotiations in London over the difficulties that have arisen, there was no general resumption of work at the docks yesterday.

The general position may be gleaned from reports—a selection of which appears below—received from various parts of the country.

At Swansea, on the Tees-side, at Southampton, and in the Bootle and Garston districts of the Mersey, the dockers remained out.

At Leith the men have intimated their refusal to restart work except on pre-strike terms and conditions.

At several ports on the East Coast of Scotland work has been resumed. Manchester men decided not to resume work until the railmen are back.

A large number of men have returned to duty at Liverpool on pre-strike terms.

At South Shields, where the men are out, shipping is at a standstill owing to bunker difficulties.

FEEDING SUFFERERS

Local Authorities Do Their Best to Help Children

St. Helens Corporation granted £7,000 for the purpose of feeding children during the dispute.

The Committee of the Richmond Hill Church, Ashton, offered the strike committee its schoolroom for use as a soup kitchen. The committee said: "We realise that this is no ordinary dispute, but a fight between the organised workers and the moneyed classes, and that our duty as Christians is to be always on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed."

THREE YEARS' GUARANTEE

Big Firm Will Not Reduce Wages

In the midst of the almost general attack on wages, which seems to be the policy which many employers have decided to adopt as their ideal, it is satisfactory to learn that some sensible employers, desirous of responding to the King's appeal for peace and co-operation still exist.

In the windows of the premises of Messrs. Lewis', Ltd. (the Selfridges of Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham), the following notice has been displayed:—

"In view of the widespread belief among the wage-earning sections of the people that the present strike is necessary as a defensive measure against the general lowering of the standard of living, Lewis', Ltd., wish to announce to their staff that they will not reduce the present basic rate of wages paid by them to-day for a period of three years."

THANKS, FRIEND!

"A hundred thousand blessings," writes Margaret Bradish, Park-road, Chiswick, W.4, "on those who kept one clean truthful paper going—the BRITISH WORKER."

Terms Signed for Railways to Restart

PREMIER'S GOAL PROPOSALS

Scheme Subject to Both Parties Accepting

Continued from Page One

together with a statement of his reasons for not adopting them.

(4) Apart from any expenditure that may be necessary under 2 (g), the Government will provide further financial assistance to the industry to the amount of approximately £3,000,000.

(5) For a period not exceeding . . . weeks:—

(i) The miners will accept a reduction of . . . per cent. in minimum wages (other than subsistence rates) in all districts.

(ii) The owners will bear wages equivalent to 100 per cent. of ascertained net proceeds (in January-March) so far as necessary to maintain those wages.

(iii) The Government will fill the gap with a subsidy to be debited against the £3,000,000 aforesaid.

(6) In the meantime:—
(i) A Board shall be set up consisting of three representatives of the coalowners and three representatives of the miners, with an independent chairman.

(ii) The Board shall frame a national wages and hours agreement governing the principles on which the general wage rates should be ascertained in each district, and shall also decide the minimum percentage on basis, taking into consideration the state and prospects of trade, the reorganisation proposals of the Commission, and other relevant factors.

(iii) Subsistence wages shall not be reduced in any district where they at present yield 45s. per week or less for a full customary week.

(iv) The Board shall decide also what the districts shall be.

(v) The Board shall issue its decision within three weeks.

(vi) In the event of disagreement in respect of wages the decision shall rest with the independent chairman.

(7) If the parties agree that it is advisable that some temporary modification should be made in the statutory hours of work, the Government will propose the necessary legislation forthwith and give facilities for its immediate passage.

(8) Any balance of the £3,000,000 aforesaid will be available for a "tapering" subsidy after the period referred to in Paragraph 5, or such other purpose as may be agreed upon between the Government, the Mining Association and Miners' Federation.

(9) The provisional undertakings made by the Government in this memorandum are conditional on the acceptance of its terms by the other parties.

MINERS ADJOURN

Mr. Baldwin had seen the miners' Executive on Thursday evening, and he met the mineowners yesterday afternoon.

In view of these developments the miners' special national delegate conference, which assembled in London yesterday, adjourned until to-day after having reports on the events of the past fortnight.

The miners' Executive considered the Premier's proposals last night and will report on them at the resumed conference to-day.

REPLIES ON MONDAY?

With the proposals the Prime Minister sent a letter to Mr. Herbert Smith and Mr. Evan Williams, hoping both sides may see their way to accept them, and saying he does not expect a reply before Monday at earliest.

A JOINT AGREEMENT

Satisfactory Settlement, Say Leaders of the Three Unions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

in reinstating to be seniority in each grade at each station, depot, or office.

(2) The trades unions admit that in calling a strike they committed a wrongful act against the companies, and agree that the companies do not by reinstatement surrender their legal rights to claim damages arising out of the strike from strikers and others responsible.

3. The unions undertake (a) not again to instruct their members to strike without previous negotiation with the company; (b) give no support of any kind to their members to take any unauthorised action; (c) not to encourage supervisory employees in the special class to take part in any strike.

4. The companies intimate that, arising out of the strike it may be necessary to remove certain persons to other positions, but no such persons' salaries or wages will be reduced. Each company will notify the union within one week the names of men whom they propose to transfer, and will afford each man an opportunity of having an advocate to present his case to the General Manager.

5. The settlement shall not extend to persons who have been guilty of violence or intimidation.

Signed on behalf of the General Managers' Conference: Felix J. C. Pole, H. G. Burgess, H. A. Walker, R. L. Wedgwood, R. H. Selbie.

On behalf of the Railway Unions: J. H. Thomas and E. T. Crump (National Union of Railwaymen), J. Bromley (Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen), A. J. Walkden (Railway Clerks' Association).

Mr. J. H. Thomas, in a statement to the Press at the conclusion of the Conference after signing the agreement, said:—

"Having regard to all the circumstances I consider it an eminently satisfactory settlement.

"When one considers the bitterness, the disorganisation and the difficulties surrounding the whole situation, I hope that the men will accept it in the spirit in which the companies and the leaders signed the agreement, namely a genuine desire to do all that is humanly possible immediately to restart the wheels of industry."

Mr. Dromley, secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, said:

"Those who, like myself, know all the difficulties with which we were at first confronted in negotiating for a settlement, will, I am sure, feel as I do, that finally a very satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at.

"Naturally, when the first position of the railway companies following the end of the General Strike was known, my members solidly refused to return to duty, and a similar action was taken by the other unions.

"I feel now that my members generally will accept the position and work will be resumed and carried on smoothly."

Mr. Walkden, secretary of the Railway Clerks' Association, said that although it had taken many hours of very strenuous argument and persuasion before they could arrive at the conclusions they had reached, he felt convinced that the settlement would prove satisfactory.

He was grateful to the railway managers for the magnanimous spirit in which they had concluded the discussion, and was equally grateful to the leaders and members of the other two unions for the spirit in which they had co-operated in helping to bring about this settlement.

IN THE COMMONS

Premier's Announcement of His Mine Intentions

Speaking in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon, Mr. Baldwin said that he was sending proposals to the parties.

"With regard to the mines," said Mr. Baldwin, "we have been working very hard on that, and I have come to the conclusion that there is

no possibility of the two parties coming to an agreement by themselves, and I have therefore prepared proposals that in my opinion form a reasonable and fair basis for a settlement.

"Those proposals will be handed to the two parties in the next hour for their consideration over the week end."

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald said he was glad Mr. Baldwin had taken steps to make his own proposals; and he suggested it might be wise that when the negotiations upon his proposals were conducted he, or somebody with good influence on both sides, should be present to give a guiding and a certain guardian hand to what was going on

HOW THEY CARRY ON

Volunteers ran a train from Workington with the brakes on the rear coach, which had to be uncoupled at Flimby, owing to intense heat caused by the wheels sliding in stead of revolving.

THE NEXT STEP

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dispute, required that means should be found to provide a satisfactory basis for negotiating a settlement in the Mining Industry.

Sir Herbert Samuel undertook that task. He was able to satisfy the General Council that a way lay open, if the general strike were ended, to the resumption of negotiations. The General Council felt assured that his action, coupled with the public statements of the Prime Minister, provided a basis upon which action could be taken.

There are no official undertakings and no official assurances. But the position is one where the basis of agreement obviously satisfies men of honour concerned to make peace.

The General Council acted with courage in ending the stoppage. It made possible the resumption of negotiations at that point where the foolish stampede of the Cabinet on May 3 unnecessarily broke them off.

The next step is for the Government to show that it proposes to make the peace in the coal industry, a real and lasting one. If that is done, the great response of the working-class will have been a victory for justice not less than solidarity.

30,000 MARCHERS

A railway procession at Manchester included between 25,000 and 30,000 marchers, many ex-Service men and many women taking part in it.

TO TRANSPORT WORKERS

Official Statement by Union Executive

The following statement was issued by the Transport and General Workers' Union last night:—

In many parts of the country the men have resumed work on the old conditions, with the old agreements recognised by the employers. There have been numerous difficulties, but many of these have been overcome so far as a large number of our members are concerned.

Employers' Associations and public authorities are now giving the problem very immediate attention, and considerable progress can be reported.

In many places the spirit of the Prime Minister's appeal has influenced the negotiations, and good relations have been established with the employers.

There are, however, considerable obstacles in the way of a complete resumption of work by many of the sections of workers covered by this Union, and these are being grappled with very seriously by the officials and committees concerned with a view to a speedy resumption of work.

[For further news of the transport situation and the docks see Page Three.]

LONDON NEWSPAPERS

Wholesale Newsagents as "Free Houses"

Whilst most of the difficulties in the way of resuming the publication of London newspapers have been removed, obstacles have now been raised on the distributive side.

The following resolution was passed at a meeting yesterday of the Federation of Wholesale Newsagents and the Associated Wholesale Newsagents, Limited:—

"This meeting of all the London wholesalers unanimously decides that, as from this date, the members will conduct their several distributing businesses as free houses, and that they will accept suitable union or non-union labour and will pay the same wages and maintain the same hours as before the strike."

TILLING'S AND WAGES

In regard to the return of bus employees and to Mr. J. H. Thomas' statement in the House of Commons, Thomas Tilling, Ltd., state that the special rates of pay for both drivers and conductors during the emergency were, as announced, to continue only until normal conditions were resumed, when the usual rates would be paid. It was not proposed to make any alteration in the ordinary rates of pay.

BUSMEN STRIKE TWICE

Thirteen hundred bus workers employed by the Northern General Transport Co., Sunderland, after doing one day's work, have struck again owing to unfair terms for resumption.

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