

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

VOL. 1. No. 8. DECEMBER, 1913.

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BY THE PARTY THEY BEFRIEND.

For the Labour candidates 2,276
Against 2,114

Labour Majority..... 162

There was much jubilation among the oppo-
nents of Labour on Saturday, November 1, when
the results of the election were made known and
it was found that Labour had only "held their
own."

Even some of our own friends were inclined to
be somewhat doleful, and went about shaking
their heads. "Barker ought to have been in,"
or "I thought Beck might have pulled it off,"
were some of the plaintive utterances we heard.

And in answer to these we give the figures
above. Although it would certainly have been
desirable that all our candidates had come out
on top, we venture to suggest that a little study
of the above figures will give cause for reflection
to those people who have said that Labour
stands no chance. What do these figures mean?

In the first place, the conditions under which
the elections were fought ought to be taken into
consideration. The outstanding feature was that
practically every fight Labour made was against
the combined forces of Liberalism and Toryism.

And here let us say at once that, whatever
people may think to the contrary, the Labour
Party do not complain of this—we are not
afraid of any combination, we prefer to fight our
own fights, we intend to fight just where we
think desirable, without consideration of who
holds the seat or who have held it; we shall not
rest content till Labour has adequate representa-
tion, and, combination or no combination, we
intend to go forward until that object is
achieved.

Therefore we are glad that the electors had the
opportunity of voting for Labour as against
Liberalism and Conservatism, for it has shown
that when the whole of the town is taken Labour
can more than hold its own.

Insidious and Underhanded.

There was no definite and open alliance be-
tween the opposing parties, we admit. It was
an insidious and underhanded game. And the
reason was because the Labour Party had the
temerity to oppose a leading Liberal in Dun-
stall Ward.

Howls of execration almost immediately arose,
and it was passed round the wards that Labour
was going to be smashed this time. Never before
had a party been so completely crushed as the
Labour Party were going to be. "You have
killed your Parliamentary chances," remarked
one leading Liberal councillor to us, and the
Tories were rubbing their hands with glee at the
contretemps which had arisen.

Nothing daunted, the Labour Party went on
with their preparations. Councillor Sharrocks,
in St. Matthew's Ward, with Mr. C. Harper as
agent, had gathered round him a gallant body
of helpers, and right manfully they worked. This
was the ward where Labour was to have the
most appalling defeat. Indeed, some of our
Liberal friends were working most assiduously
for the Conservative nominee, Mr. J. W. Paul-
ton—one of the strongest men they could put up.
They had not the common honesty to come out
openly. They did not work from committee
rooms, but the fiat had gone forth—Sharrocks
must be got out of the way. The fact that Mr.
Sharrocks got the largest majority he ever had
must have been very unpalatable to these Liberal
lights.

St. George's Ward, the other Labour victory,
was just as satisfactory. Mr. Hickins' splendid
work on the Council had made its impression.
The electors had appreciated the efforts of their
former Labour councillor, and they knew they
could not do better than send along another to
fill his place. This ward was practically left
uncannvassed by both parties who fought—but
here again we happen to know that some of those
Liberal "friends of Labour" were on the war-
path. Their efforts were of no avail, however,
and the ward has now a splendid representative
in Councillor A. Bent. It is a healthy sign for
Labour to come out on top with a majority of
132 in a ward where the electors were practically
left to please themselves.

Graiseley Ward conjures up mixed feelings.
Seven! It is a small figure, certainly, yet it

meant the difference between a good, sound
people's representative and the representative of
privilege. Here again Labour was up against
the combination, possibly more than in any other
ward. The writer was told by many Liberal
electors that they would not vote for Mr. Barker
because of the Labour Party's action in opposing
Mr. Henn in Dunstall. Mark this, dear reader;
it did not matter what the policy was. Because
Labour was perfectly honest; because they exer-
cised the perfect right of putting a candidate
where they were convinced it was necessary
other people in an entirely different ward were
prepared to vote for a candidate they didn't
want! What beautiful logic! Well, they
have got their deserts.

Conundrums for Councillor George.

The fight in Graiseley was a straight fight
against capital. The Tories made the most of
the fact that Mr. Barker stood for Socialism.
"Vote for George and no Socialism" was their
battle cry. Mr. Barker was only too glad to
fight on this issue, but his opponents did not
even advance one argument why the electors
should vote against Socialism—they could not.
After the poll Councillor George thanked the
electors for the victory over Socialism. Seven!
Truly a magnificent victory for the Anti-Social-
ists. We give Mr. George the following conun-
dram: "If in one ward in the town there are
648 Socialists, and in four wards Labour can get
a majority of 162, where will his party be when
the whole town is fought?" We will not ask
for an answer at once. The probabilities are
that he has not finished counting his own colossal
majority. When Councillor George has satisfac-
torily answered that one he might feel in-
clined to answer this: "Who does Mr.
George represent? Does he represent the Liberals
who put him in, or does he represent those
Labour voters who unfortunately could not get
to the poll?" For even Mr. George will realise
that the Tories were in a minority. Not a very
pleasant reflection for a Tory councillor!

Dunstall Ward was a keen fight against the
strongest Liberal councillor in the town, and we
congratulate Mr. Beck on his splendid fight.
Though we admit that we know of Conservatives
who voted for Mr. Beck, yet in this ward the
rule was for Conservatives to support the sitting
member. Again we do not complain; it only
makes the Labour poll of 601 against the com-
bined vote of 723 all the more creditable. The
discreditable feature of this election was the
campaign of slander entered into by many sup-
porters of the Liberal candidate. Another
feature which militated against the success of
Mr. Beck was the fact that many members of
his own union were unable to get to the poll
on account of being on duty. The thing which
is proved is that it will not be long before Mr.
Beck is representing Dunstall Ward on the Town
Council.

The Liberals' Reward.

We have pointed out how the Liberals have
attempted to kill Labour. To do it they allied
themselves with the Tories. They have had
their reward. The Conservatives have ex-
pressed their thanks to their new-found
friends by robbing them of one of their
most cherished possessions—Blakenhall. While
the Liberals were expending their energies on be-
half of the Tories by fighting Labour, the Con-
servatives were quietly repaying them in a
manner they least expected. We hope the
Liberal Party are satisfied. They have lost one
seat as the result of their tactics.

We thank all those who so valiantly rallied
round Labour's banner. We are disappointed,
certainly, because two sterling men are not
representing the workers on the Council, but we
are not dismayed. On the contrary, we view the
result with intense satisfaction. It is a good
augury for the success of Labour in the wider
area of national politics. The work of Labour
in Wolverhampton has not been in vain. We
are encouraged to go on. It is a proof that
Wolverhampton is ready for Labour representa-
tion, and we shall be prepared, be the time now,
next year, or the year after, to win such a vic-
tory for Labour as shall leave no doubt as to
what the people really want.

R.M.

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CHANGING CONDITIONS.

A Survey of Old and New Methods in Industrial Disputes.

By A. BODEN.

A survey of the history of the common people of our country shows that every extension of liberty, and every reform gained, has been preceded by a period of oppression, which has resulted in an upheaval against the powers of the time.

It has only been when the people have been driven to something near desperation that they have at last broken forth in the rude might that is theirs. Faced then with the rising clamour of the consciously wronged, the forces of gilded privilege and idle possession have retreated one or two steps.

It would seem that a certain amount of pressure for a certain length of time must be applied to our working classes to generate steam for revolt.

There has also been apparent that feature after a position has been gained, the workers have rested on their oars, to again wait for an accumulation of tyranny before forward action was entered upon.

One result of this method of social improvement is that reforms are largely dealt with in a spirit of panic, during a time of general excitement and anxiety. It is not to be wondered at that reforms of this kind bear rude marks of their hurried and hasty workmanship, and, when tried, fail to satisfy both givers and receivers.

It would be a great advance to our nation and to the world at large if we introduced a method of reason and intelligence in our social system. If we calmly surveyed our world, and the forces within it, we may have seen the possible happenings of the future, and so ordered our steps to meet the new conditions arising.

But it has ever been our method to wait until the urgency is upon us, then hurriedly draft laws and regulations to change customs and habits to meet a new situation that may easily have been foreseen and as easily prepared for.

Our Trade Union movement affords no contradiction to this theory. Its blankness of despair following the Taff Vale decision showed that a new circumstance arising caught the Trade Unions without a single theory of defence. Yet after reflection shows that just such a decision may have been definitely calculated upon when read in the light of preceding events. This was only another case where the Unions had waited until the evil was upon them before they realised that evil was possible.

Against this rule of thumb procedure, we ask that Trade Unionists should take a wide survey of what is happening in our world, and endeavour to forecast what the future holds. If by these means they see any tendencies to action in a given manner by their enemies, their steady attention now, devoted to the apparent point of attack, will well repay when the day of action arises.

The Failure of Sectionalism.

To-day we find our Trade Union world like a half-wakened man, just realising that local and sectional strikes are really useless and entirely ineffective. This decision has not been arrived at as a result of careful study and logical analysis. It has come by force of experience. By dint of hammering it in through defeat after defeat, the worker has been compelled on the stricken field of battle to re-model his defence.

Out of his losses there has emerged the painfully acquired knowledge that sectionalism is not only dead, but that it is also damned. You will observe the master-class have taught him this.

National action, then, has been forced upon the workers, and everywhere we see the new method being eagerly welcomed. Not only do we find the various trades preparing for general measures of activity, but varying trades are talking of united action. The Miners' Conference of this year have been asked to consider a scheme for linking up the interests of Miners, Transport Workers, and Dockers.

Thus we find the worker steadily learning his new lesson, and there are not wanting signs of his impatient desire to use that knowledge.

But how much quiet thought and careful reasoning has been used as to what may be expected from the newer method.

"We can't win in the old way," "We must strike nationally to win," one hears said frequently. Quite so, but will the new style of fighting affect the nature of the struggle? Will it bring any other forces into play?

Quite a short time ago we had a national miners' strike. Then we had a national railway strike. In both these cases we see two of our fundamental industries brought to a standstill. In turn, they entirely dislocated the whole industry of the country.

In effect, the miners and the railwaymen said to the community that they were in a dispute with their employers as to work and wages. Trade Unionism would deal with that question. The public itself was treated as an industrial chessboard on which the workers in two trades

stant attention. And that public numbered 44 million people, whilst the disputants numbered only one million.

Whatever the merits of a dispute may be, we must recognise that the wants and wishes of 44 millions of people are greater than those of one million.

It was so in each of these disputes, and we found the 44 millions of people promptly appealing to the central controlling force of the country, namely, Parliament, to intervene in the interests of the larger number.

The Government in each case did so, and in a bewildering way Trade Unionists saw a purely Trade Union fight taken clean out of their hands, and removed into the political world for final settlement.

Here, then, you see a new factor brought into play.

The close organisation of employers has forced you out of sectionalism into national action, if you were to exist at all. The very success of your national action has forced you into the world of politics as Trade Unions.

Was this contemplated or foreseen? If not, I ask you, can it not now be clearly seen that the larger action of the future, involving the whole nation, means forcing your questions out of the purely Trade Union world, again and again into the world of the politicians? What steps have been taken by the worker to prepare for this event?

In the House of Commons we find 40 men to represent the interests of Labour. When, by your very success as a Trade Union, you find your case sent for trial to that House, you find

and compel attention to the reasonable demands they made. . . . The duty of the Association was to scrutinise every Act of Parliament, every Bill that was brought before the House which touched the interests of employers."

The following resolution was moved and carried unanimously.

"That this meeting of employers in Liverpool, convinced of the necessity of a centralised organisation of employers to safeguard their interests in industrial legislation, hereby pledges itself to support the Employers' Parliamentary Association and to assist in the extension of the movement whenever possible."

The Moral.

There you have the employers already federated in the industrial world, now bringing into existence an Employers' Federation in the political world, in readiness for the next item of industrial legislation, which means your legislation. This Association already numbers nearly 200 Members of Parliament.

And your votes put them there. Do you see! No mention made of Liberal or Tory. Just employers' interests, that's all.

They have seen the signs of the times. They believe political union is good, while keeping up the old Liberal and Tory blinkers to deceive the workers.

If it is good for them, is it not good for you. And this game is entirely yours. It's your votes that control here.

As your future Trade Union method of fighting will take your question into the House of



One side of Court No. 2, Brook Street, described on Page 6 by Our special Commissioner. One house is occupied; the other three, it is stated, are to be "put into order." An amazing story is told of the house minus door and window.

that the same Trade Unionists have sent 182 employers of labour to sit on the jury. Lawyers, ex-officers, professional men, landowners, etc., go to make up the number.

Of course, you struck work as a Trade Unionist and you voted as a —, well, shall we leave it there?

You have never connected your interests as a worker with your interests as a voter.

But what of the other side—the employers' side? Have they estimated the probable results of the new way of fighting? Have they calculated that it may mean developments in a new direction? You know them to be keen, clear-headed, hard-thinking men of business. You would expect them to carefully cast up all the chances of the future.

The Capitalists' Way.

And they, at least, consider that their questions will tend to pass rapidly into the House of Commons, and they are not waiting until the evil is upon them. Already they are strengthening their forces at the point which they see the attack will come.

Before me, as I write, I have a report of a meeting held at Liverpool on July 14th of this year. The report is headed:

Employers' Parliamentary Association.

There were present representatives of all the leading trades of the city, including colliery owners, engineers, shipowners, wire-rope manufacturers, rice millers, chemical factors, etc., etc.

Sir Chas. W. Macara, a prominent Liberal, by the way, addressed the assembly, and in the course of his remarks said, "He held that the employers of the United Kingdom should be so well organised that they could act together whenever necessary."

Mr. W. P. Rylands (president of the Iron and Steel Wire Manufacturers' Association) said, ". . . there was only one thing for the employers to do, and that was to combine together as one great force whose power could not be

Commons you are called upon by your own actions to support your Trade Unionism by your vote.

The man who does not support his Union is a blackleg. The man who does not vote as a Trade Unionist is a political blackleg.

He may delude himself with the name of Liberal or Tory. His masters are under no such delusion. They work and vote for Capital.

Plain duty and commonsense call on the worker to work and vote for Labour.

EACH IN HIS OWN TONGUE.

A fire, a mist, and a planet,
A crystal and a cell,
A jelly-fish and a saurian,
And caves where the cave-men dwell,
Then a sense of law and beauty,
And a face turned from the clod—
Some call it Evolution,
And others call it God.

A haze on the far horizon,
The infinite tender sky,
The ripe rich tints of the cornfields,
And the wild geese sailing high;
And all over upland and lowland,
The charm of the golden rod;
Some of us call it Nature,
And others call it God.

Like tides on a crescent sea-beach,
When the moon is new and thin,
Into our hearts high-yearnings
Come swelling and surging in,
Come from the mystic ocean,
Whose rim no foot has trod;
Some of us call it longing,
And others call it God.

A picket frozen on duty,
A mother starved for her brood;
Socrates drinking the hemlock,
And Jesus on the Rood;
And millions who, humble and nameless,
The straight, hard pathway trod;

THE WORKING WOMAN IN POLITICS.

By MARION PHILLIPS, D.Sc.
(General Secretary, Women's Labour League).

II.—POLITICS AND THE HOME.

The real wrong that women are doing to the community to-day is in staying at home and not taking part in political affairs.

Every law passed by Parliament to-day affects women, either for good or ill, and it is a gross injustice to exclude them from political affairs. Women do the great work of making homes. Think how their work is hampered by bad houses, low wages, and insecurity of life, which is the common lot of the mass of the people. What woman can make a home in one room? Yet some hundreds of thousands of women have to do it. What woman can keep a house clean when she must walk a quarter of a mile to get water from a pump, as a poor woman in the country sometimes must, or when she must go up and down four flights of stairs to draw it, as many in the district where I live have to do.

What woman can keep a family healthy and contented when the weekly wage will not buy them enough to stave off hunger? And for how many of the workers' wives is there enough money to do that? What woman can protect and cherish her children when there is unemployment, or when widowhood comes upon her, or when her husband is ill or injured? Yet think of the number of men—nearly 5,000 a year—who are killed by accidents at work, to say nothing of those who die early because of the unhealthiness of their employment.

Here are just a few instances of the ways in which women are prevented to-day from doing their work as home makers. There are so many more which come to mind, but those must wait for another time.

Let us examine a little some of those above. Take housing. Why have we such bad houses for the great mass of the people to-day?

At the root of all the causes are our present laws as to private property in land. These allow the people who happen to be so lucky as to own land to charge anyone who wants to live on it a ground rent just for the use of the land. The ground rent thus charged grows bigger and bigger as the town grows larger and there are more demands for houses, etc. But the landlord just sits tight, and when the time for which he has let the land ends he is able to become the owner of the house as well without having done anything except let the land on which it was built. Sometimes a landlord refuses to let his land for house building at all, and refuses to build houses himself—and thus many a workman must leave his work or go many a mile to and fro every day. Part of the rent which women pay every week for their homes goes in ground rent and the rest in rent for the house itself. The owner of the house builds as cheaply as he can, does as few repairs as he can, and if possible gets on the local Council and sees that the sanitary authorities are not too careful in making landlords like himself keep their houses in good order!

Women will never have good houses until the land laws are altered so that instead of land belonging to individuals it shall belong to the whole people, i.e., the nation, and so that it may be used for the good of the people instead of as a means of making a living without doing anything for it. And, further, women must see that the local Council manages its business well, and that if private landlords are unable to build healthy houses, then that the Council does it instead. A good house is the very basis of a healthy community, and the more home-loving a woman is the more she must help to get the land for the people, and the houses for the people too.

But men cannot make good houses without the advice of women. They do not know, as women do, what the work of a home is, and so they do not know how to arrange the rooms and make them convenient, and to save the woman's labour in keeping them clean and pleasant. Women have to think out these questions of housing for themselves, and get to know how the building laws should be framed and what kind of houses should be built. They cannot do these things unless they come out and talk them over with their friends and attend meetings for discussing them, and it is no use their doing this unless also they try to get the right people into power so that their ideas may be carried out.

If men would only realise how much happier life would be for them if the house was well built and well planned, and how much it would mean to have a wife at home who was not overworked, who did not have to spend her days in a crowded-up, stuffy room and was able to keep things clean without constant worry, if they would realise just what that would mean in making their wives younger and jollier and less anxious companions, then they would see it that they had their help in politics. I think that they would insist on the wives going to meetings and joining organisations, and would even stay at home and mind the babies while they did it!

Labour politics aim at better homes, and women must take part because they know what

ON BEING "LEVEL-HEADED."

By "J. A. T."

Some years ago two men were conversing together when the one observed that he had never suffered from headache in his life. "That," replied the other, "is one of the advantages of being mallet-headed."

And, really, one is somewhat reluctantly forced to the conclusion that men do actually progress through various stages, ranging from the very prevalent malady known as "swelled-head"—which, happily, is generally confined to our youthful days—to what has become known locally during the recent municipal elections as the "level-headed" stage.

Obviously, this constitutes the very acme of intelligence. Far be it from me to decry these self-styled, level-headed gentlemen, or to belittle in the slightest degree the victory which, doubtless, they will justly claim as a result of their level-headedness. But does it not seem strange that in Graiseley Ward, despite all the efforts of these level-headed individuals, there should have been 600 voters who were courageous enough, or sensible enough, or sufficiently gullible, or, if our level-headed friends prefer the term, were so unlevel-headed as to support the Socialist candidate?

Candidly speaking, Labour polled remarkably well, and not least by any means has the influence of the WORKER contributed to this desired end. Take the figures in the aggregate, for example, in the four wards contested by Labour men, and although only two of the four Labour candidates were successful, still the significant fact remains that Labour polled 2,275 votes against 2,114 cast in favour of the Liberal, Conservative, and Independent candidates.

One of the successful candidates expressed his thanks to his supporters in assisting him "to obtain a victory over Socialism." Victory, forsooth! and with the overwhelming majority of seven votes. What the result would have been had the Labour candidate been as well equipped with vehicles as his Conservative opponent one cannot tell.

One noticeable feature of the campaign was the antipathy to Socialism. Why this aversion to Socialism? Are the workers living under such ideal conditions that there is no room for improvement?

A few months ago the only child of wealthy parents was ordered by the medical man to have a change of air. Without the slightest delay a furnished house was taken for several weeks at the nearest seaside resort, and the family, including the maids, were speedily transferred there. Now one cannot say a single word against the efforts which were made in order that the little chap should recuperate. But one cannot help but wonder whether, under similar circumstances, the level-headed men who were tumbling over one another's heels in their eagerness to secure the return of their capitalist friends would be in a position to send their little ones—the joy and sunshine of their homes—away to the seaside for a few days, much less a few weeks.

The competitive system is no doubt very good indeed for the man who is making his pile, but not quite so good for the man who is narrowed down to a bare existence.

Cannot they see the difference between competition, with its unequal distribution of wealth, and co-operation, with its motto, "Each for all, and all for each"?

Cannot they see that every vote cast in support of capitalism is a vote against their own interests? Do they not understand that every concession forced from their capitalist friends, forced oftentimes at the point of starvation, is quietly filched back in some other form?

Level-headed, indeed! When the workers are really level-headed they will see to it that Labour is adequately represented not only at Westminster, but upon all our public bodies, and that there is equality of opportunity alike for peer or peasant's son, and that it is impossible for one man to loll back in a £400 or £500 motor-car whilst his more unfortunate brethren eke out a miserable existence on £1 a week, alternating between full time, short time, or the workhouse to relieve the monotony.

DUBLIN STRIKE

An Appeal. Urgent.

The Women's Labour League will be glad to receive gifts of cast-off clothing for the **Men, Women, and Children** of Dublin.

Parcels may be taken to the Labour Assembly Rooms, Queen Square; or a post-card addressed to Mrs. Dideridge, 163, Park Street South, when any gifts will be called for.

L.R.C. NOTES.

November 1 has come and gone, and where are we? Four municipal fights: two of our candidates returned to the Council and two not. Yet it is in the latter two instances that our real victories were achieved. We missed a seat on the Town Council for Graiseley Ward by eight votes; and yet there were more than twenty times that number of our own supporters who did not take the trouble to record their votes. Why was it? Simply because of apathy on the part of the voters, each thinking his vote did not matter, and on the other hand an insufficient number of workers to assist the candidate on the day of the election.

Why Dunstall Ward was not easily won is inexplicable. A railwayman in a railwaymen's ward. A man who has worked side by side with his fellows, done yeoman service for his Trade Union, and taken an active part in all their movements is thrown aside for a man whose chief claim is that for a number of years he has been on the Council and scarcely been heard of—but he is a Liberal, and it was his party who sent the soldiers out in August, 1911, at the time of the railway strike.

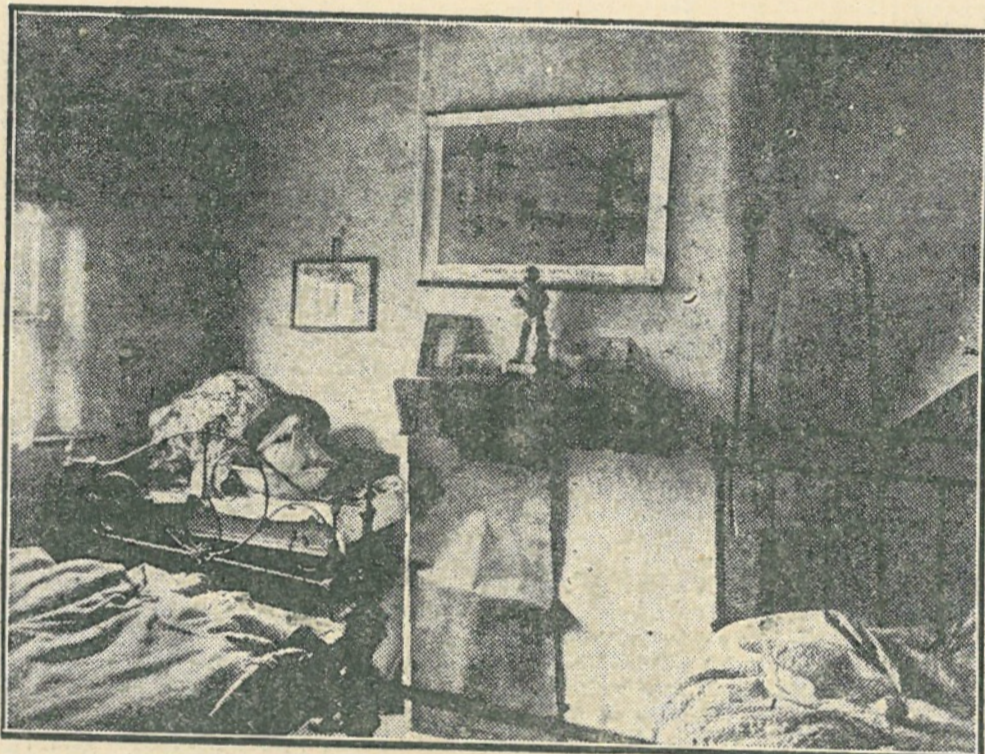
In St. Matthew's Ward our good friend Sharrocks won handsomely, thanks to a large extent to the Workers' Union, who have not forgotten who were their true friends in the time of their struggles.

The St. George's Ward contest was unique.

WOMEN AS CHANCELLORS OF THE EXCHEQUER.

There is no more pressing need for women to take an interest in politics than the fact that it is men who, as a rule, earn the money, it is the women who have to make it "do." Thus for women, even more than men, is the question of a living wage a question of argment importance. Day by day, year in and year out, the wife and mother in the working class home fights her battle against low wages and high prices. Few indeed even have a holiday from their fears and worries. Sunday, the man's holiday, is often the wife's chief working day. She may get up later—but she is busy enough when once she sets to business. For Sunday is the house-keeper's crown and glory—marred for the wife by the thought of the lean days to follow. Sleeping and waking, she has always more or less before her mind the problem of making both ends meet.

It is a harder task than Mr. Lloyd George's—he knows what is to be spent, but he can also exact the amount by fresh taxation. The woman does not realise yet that she can also—if she has political power. And because she does not see, she is helpless and finds no way out of her



A bedroom in what was described as the "best house in the Besom Yard." It will be seen that newspapers have to be affixed to the wall to protect clothing. It will be noticed that there is barely room to move. The two beds are close to either wall.

A Labour seat was attacked by a candidate nominated by the Friendly Societies Council. It was rather a singular thing that on the first occasion they put a candidate forward it should be against Labour, especially seeing the Labour and Trade Union movements are presumed to be closely allied to the Friendly Societies. The position, if it were not so serious, would have been farcical, and it is largely owing to this there was such a small poll, supporters on both sides resenting the position and abstaining from voting. The actual results of the contests were: Graiseley Ward.—George (Con.), 655; Barker (Lab.), 648. Dunstall.—Henn (Lib.), 723; Beck (Lab.), 601. St. Matthew's.—Sharrocks (Lab.), 583; Paul-ton (Con.), 424. St. George's.—Bent (Lab.), 444; Smith (Friendly Societies), 312.

In three of the wards the Liberals and Tories formed a not very secret alliance in their endeavours to crush out "Labour," and it was openly stated before the elections that all the Labour candidates would be wiped out, so sure were they that their coalition would be successful. In Dunstall we had Liberal councillors exhorting the electors to support their nominee, as they were the friends (?) of Labour and worked side by side with Labour, whilst at the same time, in St. Matthew's Ward, at least one Liberal councillor was working against Labour and supporting the Tory.

It would seem they had forgotten their differences, if ever they had any, and combined against the working classes, and it is becoming more apparent than ever that, at any rate as far as municipal affairs are concerned, there is no dividing line between the two older parties, whose game it is to get the workers to label themselves Liberals or Tories, and whilst divided against themselves the workers are kept in subjection and exploited. There is no doubt that with the recent industrial struggles and the large influx into the various Trade Unions, Labour in this town has a glorious future. The seed has and is being sown, and it only requires husbanding for a rich harvest to be gathered.

We recognise we have great odds against us—wealth, patronage, and chicanery—but if the workers will only realise the necessity of each doing his share our task will be easy.

We invite all to come along and render what assistance they can. There is work for all.

C. W. H.

poverty. Mr. Lloyd George is taxing her all the time. There are the taxes on the food of the people—tea, currants, and so on. He keeps them on—in spite of all promises to get us a free breakfast table, and in spite of the efforts of the Labour Party to take them off for us. The women must help in that battle—the victory in which would help so greatly their home exchequer.

But there is more than the food taxes in question. We find Parliament to-day constantly taking part in questions which affect wages. This Parliament dealt with wages of underpaid women in chainmaking, tailoring, cardboard box-making, and lace-making by establishing Trade Boards to fix minimum rates. Then came the railway strike, and Parliament intervened to establish Conciliation Boards to fix rates and conditions. Later there was the miners' strike, and again Parliament dealt with the matter and set up a Machinery of Wages Boards. And during the present year the confectionery, hollow-ware, and shirtmaking trades have been brought under the Trade Boards Acts and in time minimum rates will be fixed for them also.

Now the Labour Party in Parliament strove to get a minimum of 5s. for men and 2s. for boys per day for all miners, but failed. They tried again to get first 25s. a week, then 21s. a week, for railway men. They failed again. They will succeed when they are strong enough to beat both Liberals and Tories, who on such questions combine against them!

If then women—as Chancellors of the Exchequer at home—want to see some of their anxieties lightened, and to have an income which grows greater, and to be able to buy more for their money, they must organise politically and beat the old parties. Even without votes they can do much to affect public opinion and stir up the men, and the more they take part the sooner they will get the votes which are needed before they can exercise their full power to throw off their worst economic burdens.

Women must not delay. They must be up and doing, saving the children, and making life-happiness for all.

M.P.

YOUR BURDENS.

By ROBERT HUNTER.

The burdens the poor bear are many. As one of the Apostles says of the sayings of Jesus, if they were all written the world itself could not contain that book.

And the greatest burden borne by Labour is the burden of wealth, and this is most strange of all.

How can wealth be a burden, you ask?

Men work to produce wealth in order to ease their burdens. They feel that if they work hard enough they can lift their burdens.

And so how splendidly men labour through the days of youth when the hot blood courses in the veins!

And how hopefully men labour through the days of early married life, when all is young and beautiful!

And they labour with might and main to lift their burden so as to leave old age free from want and care.

Think of the millions of fine lads this year taking their places in the ranks of labour.

Think of them with all their vigour, strength, and enthusiasm starting forth on the road of life confident that they can brush away all obstacles, lift every burden, and finally conquer.

But the greatest burden they must bear, and they know it not, is the burden of the very wealth they produce.

In the old days men produced for themselves, and what they made they largely consumed.

To-day a large portion of what men produce is turned into capital for further exploiting men, and the more men labour and toil the more capital grows, and the more men struggle the heavier becomes the indebtedness of labour to capital.

When by their united labours they have produced a billion dollars for John Rockefeller their labour is only begun.

It stands over them like a mortgage, and every year up to the end of this system they must produce interest and profit on that billion dollars.

Rockefeller will not spend his billion, dollar by dollar, he will keep it so long as possible for himself and his children and his great grandchildren.

For that billion is what is called capital, and that billion says to the workers in all the world, "Come unto me all you that are weary and heavy laden. You owe me tribute. Pay me! Make haste, you generations of toilers! Pay me tribute, 10 per cent., 20 per cent., 30 per cent., year by year."

And the bigger that wealth grows the heavier is the burden it lays on labour. It forces labour to greater and greater tasks and to ever more and more exertion to pay its demands.

When labour has produced the one hundred and sixteen billions of wealth in the United States for instance, its work has just begun.

It has produced only a part of this wealth to use as food, clothing, and shelter, and the rest of this vast sum it has given to its masters to use as a tool upon which to exploit labour.

And upon this wealth labour must pay interest, rent, and profit.

Labour cannot escape. The demands of capital are as inexorable as a prison sentence.

And so labour tugs and lifts and sweats to pay that interest, rent, and profit, which ever increases the volume of wealth.

And as billion is added to billion, labour lays on itself and its children a heavier and heavier burden of toil.

And the preacher, the lawyer, and the professor are silent. And the rulers and politicians are dumb! They watch labour bearing this ever-growing burden—but they are dumb. They seek the secret of all things but this.

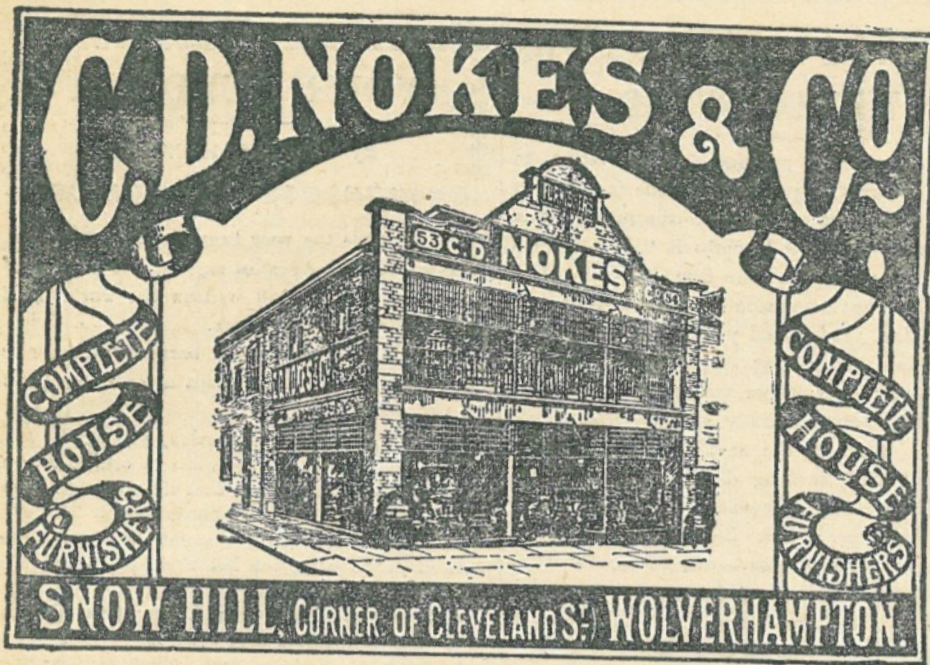
And Labour labours, and can't think. It is too hurried and heavy laden and weary to think.

And so labour tugs away at its bootstraps, ever dreaming and ever hoping that one day the burden will lift itself.

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Inquiries as to advertisements should be addressed to the Advertising Manager, at the office of this paper.

DECEMBER, 1913.

THE STRUGGLE IN DUBLIN.

The Pharaoh of Dublin still maintains the hardness of heart that has been displayed by him from the very beginning of the great labour dispute which, for over three months past, has held that city in its grip. It will be remembered that the trouble began through the leader of the employers, Mr. William Martin Murphy, calling upon his workmen to surrender their membership in the Irish Transport Workers' Union, the alternative being dismissal. The men refused to "bow the knee," were locked out, and one of the biggest labour disputes of the present century was thus precipitated. The Dublin workers rallied to their locked-out comrades, and have valiantly maintained the fight with the aid of their fellow trade unionists in Great Britain. Mainly through the help of *The Daily Citizen*, over £64,000 has been subscribed, and many ship-loads of food have been sent to Dublin for the locked-out workers from the vast stores at the headquarters of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, at Manchester. This substantial help continues to flow in greater volume week by week, and has shaken the ground occupied by Mr. Murphy and his fellow-magnates. But although their position as prohibitors of trade unions is utterly untenable, and they have long since been beaten in argument, they continue to hold out in the hope that the stream of financial assistance from the trade unions will ultimately dry up, and that they will then be able to beat their wage-

are confident that shameful hope will be defeated, and that the mutual aid rendered by the other trade unions will increase rather than diminish. Probably Mr. Murphy has calculated that certain personal differences amongst a few of the prominent Labour leaders, whose unions are directly concerned with the dispute in question, would lead to disruption and the break-up of the united resistance with which he has had to contend; but that calculation, like many others made by him, is being falsified, and the predominant note in all the proposals and suggestions for consideration at the special Trade Union Congress which is to be held in London on the 9th instant, is that the whole matter must be kept above any personal considerations, and that the British Labour Movement as a whole will give greater and still more united assistance to the workers of Dublin. The right to combine in any trade union the workers think fit to adopt must be maintained at all costs.

TORY ANARCHISM.

Mr. J. L. Garvin, who does most of the thinking for the Tory Party, is now calling upon them to take anarchistic action to prevent the final passing of the Home Rule Bill. He suggests that the Party in the House of Commons should make Parliamentary Government impossible by shouting down their opponents hour by hour, day by day, and week by week (in the best "Lord Hughligan" manner) and that their friends in the country should promote disaffection in and secession from, the Territorial Forces. Of course enthusiastic encouragement is given to the seditious action of Sir Edward Carson and his "army" in Ulster, and a general policy of Anarchism and Nihilism is advocated for approval and adoption by the Tory Party, which, as we all know, was never tired of preaching the doctrine of "law and order" in the palmy days of its power under the late Lord Salisbury. There is no likelihood of the British public placing confidence in people who favour a policy such as that advocated by Mr. Garvin, and the position is not without its moral to some of the more extreme friends of Labour who expect the Trade Unions and the Labour Party to adopt a line of action similar to that suggested by this Tory journalist. Any one possessing any knowledge of political and social affairs must recognise that a policy of violence and disorder is bound to create a reaction against those who promote it, and that the only sure road to progress lies in the direction of complete organisation and the establishment of sound principles. So far as Labour is concerned, real progress is being achieved more rapidly than at any period in the history of the movement, as evidenced by the many successes recently attained by the Trade Unions in the industrial field, and by the Labour Party in the sphere of Local Government.

THE RAILWAY ENQUIRY.

The appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the Railway question is one of the steps towards the making of the history of the twentieth century. The broad purpose of the inquiry is to investigate the relationship between the Railways, the Community, and the State, and it has been made clear by the chairman, Lord Loreburn, that nationalisation will be fully considered. It is undeniable that all classes of the community, especially the trading, manufacturing and travelling public (to say nothing of the railway workers), are greatly dissatisfied with the existing railway system, and it is recognised on every hand that the new policy of combination and trustification adopted by the railway companies in 1907, has accentuated the grievances of the users of the railways, and increased the intensity of the unrest amongst all grades of railway workers. The only effective alternative to a continuance of the combine system under the secret control of the Railway Companies' Association is that the State should take over the lines and run them.

success in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, and several other countries. The first witness to appear before the Commission was a representative of the Board of Trade, who, although evidently reluctant to say anything that might be regarded as detrimental to the position of the railway magnates, admitted that the existing system failed to give satisfaction, and that the main causes of dissatisfaction amongst the traders were the increase of rates, reduction of facilities, and an alteration of treatment due to the cessation of competition. He further admitted that an ordinary trader who was not a rich man had no practically effective method within his resources of controlling the charges made upon him by the companies, and that it would be a risky step for him to attempt to have these charges tested at law. All increased charges are passed on to the consumer, and the public is being compelled to seek a better form of railway organisation and administration. The question will undoubtedly be a leading one at the next General Election.

SPARKLETS.

From *The Daily Citizen*.

The *Daily Mail* asks: "Is there no Labour Leader with intelligence enough to foresee the crisis towards which British industrialism is drifting and with courage and authority enough to forestall it?"

Not the intelligence and courage are lacking, but the authority is. It will come when the workers have the intelligence and courage to return a Labour majority to Parliament.

"Many women," says the *Daily Mail*, "were warmly wrapped in fur coats, and nearly all wore fur stoles and carried muffs."

No, this was not in Dublin, but at Newmarket.

"Many Englishmen and Scotsmen need the substantial English breakfast," writes a correspondent in the *Daily Mail*.

So do a good many Irish men and women in Dublin just now.

"Liberal statesmen often err in their estimate of the elector's intelligence," says the *Daily Graphic*.

The Tory method of crediting him with no intelligence at all is certainly simpler.

"Is Railway Safety too expensive?" asks the *Daily Mail* in a flutter.

As long as only railway workers were imperilled, nobody troubled.

The *Manchester Guardian* thinks that the time of Parliament is "an asset" of value.

An asset it may be, but some Parliamentarians have a good deal of lie-ability.

"The farmers do not want anything better than the existing system of landlord and tenant," asserts the *Morning Post*.

Their only complaint, in fact, is that their rents are too low.

"Betting was occasionally a method by which they could arrive at the truth," said Lord Newton on the evil of gambling.

The truth that not all "dead certs" are winners.

The *Daily Mail* speaks reproachfully of "the incursion into State affairs of vast half-educated masses, greedy for the comforts of life, and frankly materialistic in their aims and views."

Our contemporary is plainly guilty of biting the hand that feeds it.

"How can a policy of armed coercion," asks the *Morning Post*, "be justified on Liberal principles?"

Why not have asked this question during some of the recent strikes?

A Scottish judge was pelted with apples by suffragettes on Wednesday.

Since the Fall man has always been throwing the apple in the face of woman. At last she has retaliated.

A *Daily Mail* correspondent says it is possible to "pull along comfortably in a good infantry regiment on £250 per annum allowance."

A good many who are not in good infantry regiments have to manage on a bit less; but, of course, they have to push instead of pull.

"Revolution by Bacteria," is a heading in the *Morning Post*.

The insurgent spirit has spread to the lowliest organisms.

"What Trade Union," asks the *Daily Telegraph*, "mid sobs and tears of the largest size

JOTTINGS.

Six days shalt thou labour—
And do time and a quarter on the seventh,
and incidentally do another man out of a job.

We hear there is general satisfaction among those men who have recently been sacked at a large motor car works at the satisfactory balance of £93,000 profit, which has placed the shareholders in an excellent mood.

An Englishman's home is his castle.
A beautiful dream if it was'n't for the monkey on't.

Furnish on the Hire System: £20 worth at 5s. a month; pay £5, then fall in arrears. Then the firm will fetch it back, touch it up, diddle another couple, and—"Our's is a Happy Home."

We have just been reading of mangel wurzels displayed on some political platforms.
We are informed on good authority that there is no need for more donkeys at present.

Mr. H. Staveley-Hill, M.P., speaking recently in reference to the minimum wage, said "that an appeal would be made to the lower passions of the agricultural labourers."

If their passion is any lower than the paltry wages they receive, Well—!

No doubt Mr. A. Bird, M.P. will be glad to know that Labour folk can win prizes at Conservative whist drives.

Perhaps, too, the Conservatives might practice what they preach, i.e., buy home made goods, not foreign clocks, etc.

We see the member for the West has again disbursed his quarter's salary for Parliamentary services.

There is nothing like a correct estimation of one's own value.

When the Black Country workers struck for a wage of 25s., our fellow-workers were on strike in South Africa for better conditions. The Government sent the troops—the South Staffordshire Regiment—who shot a large number of strikers.

Delicious irony! Their services were misplaced; they would have been much more useful nearer home.

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

We have heard a lot of gramophones, and they did not soothe us.

During the luncheon interval at Bloomsbury County Court a workman marched to the Registrar and demanded a situation under the British Government.

"A working man out of work has a right to demand work, and be paid for it, and seeing that the Government can find officials, insurance collectors, and M.P.'s good jobs, surely the worker can be suited."

This is not mine, but I get it from the *Midland Evening News*.

By the way, local Aldermen, Councillors, and ex-Mayors are quite excited.

They may be in our Imaginary Conversations next.

"By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy daily bread."

At the rates of pay for the workers, that is all they get generally.

How to relieve the rates:
1st. Buy the Gasworks and devote the profits to the workers and the rates.
2nd. Take over the "Sunbeam." £93,000 is really a handsome sum.

What did the residents of Newhampton-road say when the trams disturbed their slumbers at 2 a.m. Friday after the Conservative whist drive?

By the way, why can't the people who paid for them have them—in civilised hours?

Colonel Hickman, speaking recently on Ulsteritis, said "I am myself only too proud to be called a rebel amongst them."

That is what Jim Larkin went to gaol for, while F. E. Smith, Carson & Co. go free. Still, "Many are called, but few are chosen," especially to do time.

By the way, when you are called on to defend your *homeland*, see to it that you have more than you have pinched in an ordinary tree-pot.

Hail England, the land of the free!
Free to starve when you have no work.
Because we produced more than we need, 42 men died of starvation in London last year.

C. VERE.

LOCAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By "THE CHIEL."

*A chiel's amang ye takin' notes,
An', faith, he'll prent 'em.*

—BURNS.

Sir Richard Paget must have considerably upset the orthodox politicians assembled at the banquet in honour of the retiring Mayor on November 12th, when he criticised the Houses of Parliament. He certainly gave it Liberal and Tory impartially, and there was no pandering to one shade of political opinion more than another. Sir Richard drew attention to the evils of the Cabinet system, and to the decay of free speech in the Commons under the party system. "The habit of thinking for themselves," he said, "had become almost obsolete among members of Parliament." And he was quite right. No matter what a member of Parliament may think on a question he has to sink individual opinion for the sake of his party. Sir Richard Paget could not have uttered a more eloquent backing to the Labour Party's view of these matters if he had set himself to do so. The two representatives present—Mr. A. Bird and Mr. G. R. Thorne—made feeble attempts to defend the institution. There is, of course, nothing much the matter with the national assembly. "As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end." So they think.

More Dodging.

I welcome the efforts being made to open up a portion of the Dunstall Park estate for town planning purposes. It is certainly time something was done to open up that end of the town. But I cannot understand why it is not proposed to put the Town Planning Act into force. Alderman Bantock said it was hoped to do the work by private agreement, and so save the cost of putting the Act into operation. The saving would be £500. What I want to know is, why don't they want to put the Town Planning Act into operation? It certainly will have to come some time, and as far as I can see there is no advantage to be gained by delay. Is it merely a question of saving £500?

Why Not?

Three years ago a very estimable local lady was defeated in a municipal election by 6 votes. She was recompensed by being co-opted a member of the Education Committee. This year Mr. Frederic Barker has been defeated by 7 in the same ward, and many of us are looking for a repetition. The reward has not come yet. Is it because the difference of one is a disqualification? Or is it because he's a Labour man?

The Rev. J. Davison Brown and the Drink Question.

I was much interested to see a notice in the press the other week to the effect that the Rev. J. Davison Brown intended to reply to the criticisms of the WORKER in regard to his utterances on the drink traffic. It will be remembered that the rev. gentleman had made the statement that £1,000 per day was spent in drink in Wolverhampton. The WORKER asked for proof, in the absence of which, it contended, the statement constituted a gross libel. The rev. gentleman disappointed his hearers by not putting forth facts. He merely played with the question by talking about the Labour Party's statements regarding housing. I might point out that the Labour Party can prove their statements. The WORKER merely suggested that if Mr. Brown had not sufficient proof he should not give utterance to such remarks. He has not supplied that proof. I should like to add that, so far from the WORKER being antagonistic to the rev. gentleman on the drink question, we heartily sympathise with any effort made to bring about a more temperate community. But we object to exaggeration in any shape or form as being likely to injure the town we are trying to improve. If drinking is so appalling as Mr. Brown suggests, let him give the facts.

Mr. John Hodge, M.P.

Mr. Hodge's meeting in the Empire Theatre was a great success. There was a large and appreciative audience, Mr. Weaver being in the chair. Mr. Frederic Barker had a good reception when he rose to move the resolution demanding Mr. J. Larkin's release. Mr. Bent seconded, and was also well received, and there made the statement for which he has since been criticised. Mr. Hodge's address was well reasoned, and his sidelights on committee work in the House of Commons must have surprised some of the audience. Mr. Hodge made a great impression, and there is no doubt that Mr. Walkden's prospects have benefited accordingly.

The "Fiery Cross."

A correspondent writes me as follows:—"No doubt many of your readers have wondered as to the exact meaning of Mr. Larkin when he used the term "Fiery Cross" in connection with his mission to England. The following, which I cull from Sir Walter Scott's "Lady of the Lake," may be of interest, as it throws some light on the subject:—

When a chieftain designed to summon his clan upon any sudden or important emergency he slew a goat, and making a cross of any light wood, seared its extremities in the fire and extinguished them in the blood of the animal. This was called the *Fiery Cross*, also *Craeu Tarigh*, or Cross of Shame, because disobedience to what the symbol implied inferred infamy. It was delivered to a swift and trusty messenger who ran full speed with it to the

next hamlet, where he presented it to the principal person with a single word implying the place of rendezvous. He who received the symbol was bound to send it forward with equal dispatch to the next village, and thus it passed with incredible celerity through all the district which owed allegiance to the chief, and also among his allies and neighbours if the danger was common to them. At the sight of the *Fiery Cross* every man from sixteen years old to sixty capable of bearing arms and accoutrements was obliged instantly to repair to the place of rendezvous.

He who failed to appear suffered the extremities of fire and sword, which were emblematically denounced to the disobedient by the bloody and burnt marks upon the warlike signal.

"When I was Young."

I cull the following from the *Midland Evening News* of November 10th:—"Judge Howard Smith, during the hearing of a judgment summons at the Wolverhampton County Court to-day, was very much surprised to learn that as much as ninepence was paid for getting in a load of coals. 'Why,' said His Honour, 'when I was younger I could get in thirty or forty loads of coal in a day.' I will leave it to my carter friends and others who may be interested. I have often had terrible suspicions that the man who gets my coal in was a millionaire in disguise; that his torn clothes, pinched face, and hacking cough were only part of an effective make-up. Now I know the dread truth.

Trade Unionists and Co-operation.

I was much interested in the remarks of Mr. Fellows at the Trades' Council meeting. Mr. Fellows pointed out to Trade Unionists the advantages of being connected with the Co-operative Society. Everyone ought to be fully in sympathy with the objects of co-operation. By being connected they are assured that all the commodities they purchase are produced under strict Trade Union conditions, that all employed, directly or indirectly, by the Society are receiving the wages and are employed under the conditions of labour as laid down by the various Trade Unions. In addition members of the Society participate in the profits of the concern by means of the quarterly dividends on their purchases. It is the easiest thing in the world to become a member of the society, and only involves the initial outlay of 4d. A postcard to the secretary of the Co-operative Society, Stafford-street, will bring all information.

The Floral Fête.

I received, too late for publication last month, a copy of the annual report and balance sheet of the Wolverhampton floral fête. Congratulations are due to the energetic secretary, Councillor R. F. Amphlett, and his committee on the excellent work they are doing, and on the fact that the last floral fête was the second best on record. I am sorry that space will not allow me to give the report and balance sheet in full, but the following extracts from the report will be interesting: "As a result of the last floral fête, a balance of profit exceeding £450 was made; the amount of income in hand, including interest on the reserve fund, being a sum well over £500. The year 1913 was the second best on record, and considering the amount of money which is now spent on the fête, it may, I think, fairly be called the most successful year in the history of the fête. No less sum than £3,100 was spent in prize money and other attractions, so that a profit of £450 may be taken as a very gratifying result. However, from a perusal of the statements of account during the last few years, it is manifest that the fête has now taken an upward turn, and is increasing in popularity year by year. Active steps are being taken for special railway facilities from the neighbouring districts to be granted to us, which should have the effect of very materially increasing the attendance in future years. Preparations have already begun for next year's show, and it has been felt by the committee that still greater attractions should be added to the programme, and arrangements have been made for a visit of the famous Grenadier Guards Band. In addition, it has been thought that improvement should be made in the class of artistes engaged for the stage performances. To this end already three very important engagements have been made for high class Continental artistes, the like of which have not previously been seen in Wolverhampton. Active steps are also being taken to secure a great attraction for the grand stand, which will probably necessitate the grand stand being enlarged in order to give intending spectators an opportunity of witnessing the performances. The new schedule is about to be drawn up and new classes to be introduced, so that the floral exhibition is certain to maintain the very high position which it already holds in the world of horticulture."

Dr. Woods Hutchinson, lecturing at Holborn, said that scientists "were coming to the conclusion that the way to produce the largest number of men of genius, ability, and character was to raise the general level of wholesomeness and comfort."

To put it more shortly, coming to the view of the Labour Party.

TRADES COUNCIL TOPICS.

New Societies—Congratulations—One for Alderman Lewis—Co-operation—Insurance Agents and the Act—Armaments—Corporation Contracts.

Since the last Council Notes appeared several new societies have sought information with a view to affiliation; and No. 2 Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, the London and Provincial Union of Coachmakers, and the National Union of Mechanics and Electrical Workers have signified their intention of joining. Another large Union have the matter before their Executive, and should they decide to join practically every society in the town will then be affiliated.

Great satisfaction has been expressed among members of the Council and other Trade Unionists at the selection of Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P., as the successor to Mr. Geo. Lawley (who has resigned) as the Trades Council's representative on the Education Authority. Another choice that has met with entire approval is that of Mr. Weaver (of the Railway Clerks' Association) to sit with Mr. T. Jones, J.P., on the West Midlands Advisory Committee of the Labour Exchanges.

At the meeting last week hearty congratulations were extended to Mr. W. Sharrocks and Mr. Bent on their successful fight in the municipal contests. Councillor Sharrocks is well known and appreciated for his efforts in the past on behalf of the bottom-dog, and it is felt that he will have a capable and efficient lieutenant in the person of the railway guard.

Indignation and surprise was felt at the unsportsmanlike and ungenerous attack which was made on Mr. Bent on his initial appearance in the Council Chamber, but there is little doubt that the newly-elected member of the Council will fully justify the good credentials which accompanied him. An incisive and well-merited retort was made by the secretary of the Council (Mr. H. Bagley) to the attack on Mr. Bent at the Town Council meeting. Some of them, said Mr. Bagley, envied Councillor Bent's entry to the Council Chamber, and his opportunity of resenting some remarks by Alderman Price Lewis. A lot of them knew what fair fighting and hitting below the belt were, and they did not desire any curtain lectures as to the methods of fair fighting from Alderman Lewis. In his opinion Alderman Lewis made an unsportsmanlike and unexpected attack on Councillor Bent on his first appearance at a Council meeting. Talk about fair fighting! Why, Councillor Bent had not got his guard up, but now that he knew with what he had to contend he might be safely left to deal with any attacks in future. With regard to the high-falutin' remarks of the chairman of the Health Committee, he said if only Alderman Berrington would deviate from the primrose path of the Penn-road and his own door, he (Alderman Berrington) would hesitate to say that Wolverhampton, from the standpoint of slums, was better than other large towns. In this respect, as they knew, Wolverhampton was bad enough, and if Councillor Bent's remarks had done nothing else they would probably help to forward the time when slums would be abolished.—Mr. E. Woolley, after a reference to the "funny little villas" in Monmore Green, said Councillor Bent was "a second Jim Larkin." He had opened his mouth at the first opportunity, and he (Mr. Woolley) had been told that the railwaymen's representative said more in one day than some members of the Council had said in twelve months.

Another matter that deserves the heartiest and most careful consideration of the working-class movement was that raised by Mr. H. N. Fellows, who in a most forcible and convincing manner moved the following resolution:

"That the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council, recognising that Co-operative Societies are democratic institutions, owned and controlled by the working classes, strongly urges all Trade Unionists to associate themselves more actively with the local society." The many advantages of the Co-operative movement were placed before the delegates and the request made that they would reiterate it at their branch meetings. In this latter wish the E.C. of the Trades Council would like to join.

A resolution passed at the meeting was to the effect:

"That this Trades Council, realising the menace to social progress and working-class welfare involved in war, and the terrible suffering, sacrifice of life, and the waste of material resources which it involves, expresses itself against the growing burden of armaments and protests against the action of the Government for increasing the national expenditure for naval and military services."

Considerable interest will attach to the resolution tabled at the October meeting by the Typographical delegates when it comes up at the Town Council, as several very prominent members replied during the election time entirely in its favour. A test will shortly be forthcoming, as a Labour councillor will shortly move:

"That the time has arrived when the Corporation should insert in the Contracts Clause a condition to the effect that all work done under the said contract shall be done entirely by Trade Union labour."

However, we shall see what is the outcome.

F. C.

SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

A PAPER DELIVERED BEFORE THE WOLVERHAMPTON SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

How strange that the Socialist Sunday school movement should be non-existent in the Midlands! And yet what an important part of the Socialist movement! Many adult Socialists centre all their thought and energy on trying to convert the Liberal or Tory to Socialism—mainly people whose ideas have become fossilised and who find it very difficult to throw off the old and adopt the new.

Why not commence with the child? The Jesuit priest knew the value of this policy when he said, "Give me the child until he is seven years of age, and you may do what you like with him afterwards." The enemy (the Capitalists) also know the value of getting the children, for although the orthodox Sunday schools are supposed to be non-political, yet it is there where children are taught to reverence their (so-called) betters, and, as a Socialist poet once aptly put it, to:

"Be content, be content,
Till your weary life is spent,
Lowly live and lowly die,
All for mansions in the sky,
Castles here are much too rare,
All may have them in the air."

The objects of the Socialist Sunday School movement are to train children to think and reason for themselves, so that when they grow to manhood and womanhood they will be Socialists. This does not mean that we should teach the tiny tots economics as set forth by Karl Marx. Most of the Socialist Sunday Schools in Great Britain have adopted the class system, as it is impossible to interest and instruct the younger with the older scholars. Of course, some schools are not as fortunate as others, and have not accommodation for more than two or three classes, but, where possible, the more the classes, the better for the teacher and children.

The subjects taught vary a little to suit local conditions, but the following is an average syllabus for a Socialist Sunday School.

Class I. (Age 5 and under).—Bricks, Plasticine, Drawing, and Mat-weaving. By the use of these materials we teach some of the elementary principles of Socialism. Building with the bricks and making things with plasticine teaches the value of combination. The drawing and mat-weaving teach a love of order and beauty.

Class II. (5 to 7).—Short, Simple Stories, Historical and others. Plasticine.

Class III. (7 to 9).—Books on History, and Nature Study. Stories of Exploration.

Class IV. (9 to 11).—School Tales, Tales of Heroic Deeds and Adventure.

Class V. (11 to 13).—Elementary Science, Mutual Aid, School Tales.

Class VI. (13 to 15).—Biography, History, Science.

Junior Adult Class (15 to 19).—Evolution, Sociology, History, Present Day Society, and Socialism.

The activities of the Socialist Sunday Schools are many and varied. They have (1) children's choirs, who give concerts to help the financial side; (2) sections of the Young Socialist Citizen Corps whose motto is "The Children of all Lands shall Unite for Peace"; (3) gymnast and swimming clubs; (4) sewing and elocution classes and others. The schools organise rambles and summer outings and concerts and "at homes" for winter evenings.

The *Young Socialist* is the magazine of the Socialist Sunday Schools. It costs but a penny per month, and contains articles of interest about the schools, stories, music notes, etc.

The following are the Socialist Ten Commandments used in most Socialist Sunday Schools, and committed to memory by the children.

Love your school-fellows, who will be your fellow-workers in life.

Love learning, which is the food of the mind; be as grateful to your teachers as to your parents.

Make every day holy by good and useful deeds and kindly actions.

Honour good men, be courteous to all men, bow down to none.

Do not hate or speak evil of anyone; do not be revengeful, but stand up for your rights and resist oppression.

Do not be cowardly. Be a friend to the weak, and love justice.

Remember that all the good things of the earth are produced by labour. Whoever enjoys them without working for them is stealing the bread of the workers.

Observe and think in order to discover the truth.

Do not believe what is contrary to reason, and never deceive yourself or others.

Do not think that he who loves his own country must hate and despise other nations; or wish for war, which is a remnant of barbarism.

Look forward to the day when all men will be free citizens of one fatherland and live together as brothers in peace and righteousness.

Though the foregoing is but a poor attempt at an essay, yet I hope it may arouse a little interest in a very important phase of Socialist activity.—*One who is anxious to see in the near future*

WHERE IT COMES FROM.

AN ANSWER TO AN OFT-REPEATED INQUIRY.

"Where is the money to come from?" is a question often asked by the opponents of nationalisation, and many people are often led away because they have not given the question proper thought.

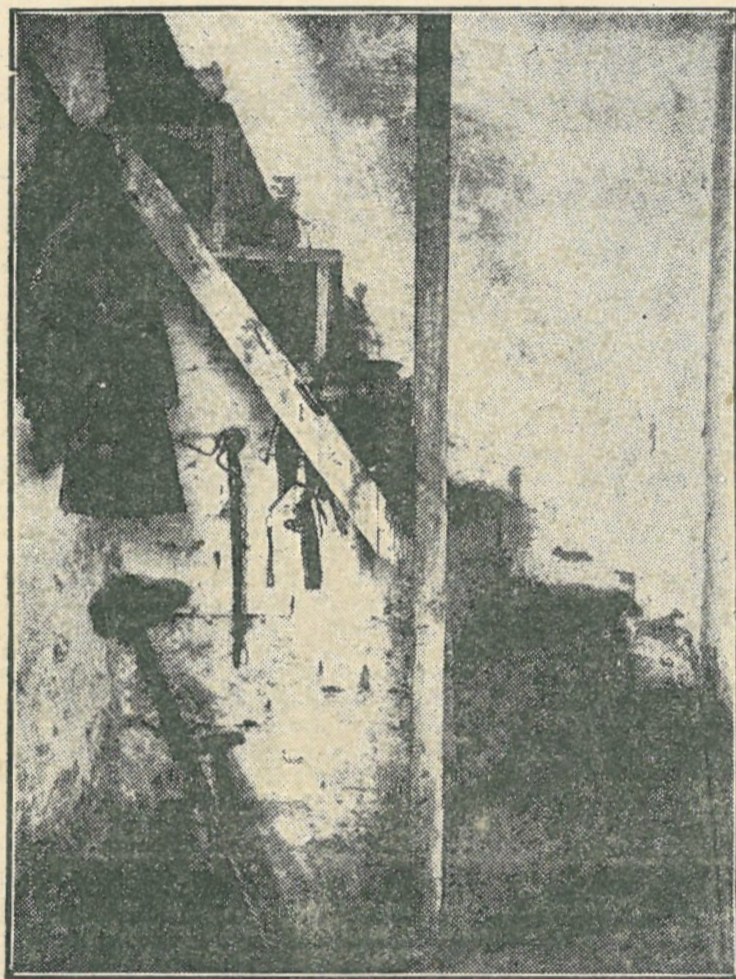
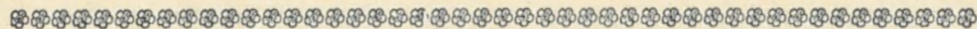
The Financial Editor of the *Daily Citizen* in an able article on October 25 deals fully with the question as follows:—

"The announcement that the Government have appointed a Commission to report on the relationship of the railway companies and the State, excluding conditions of employment and safety of working, will scarcely cause surprise. For some time dissatisfaction has been brewing. In the summer, when the directors acted with their customary disregard for everyone outside board room by refusing to give proprietors essential figures of the six months working, it was argued in this column that they had raised a storm which would not be easily allayed. If

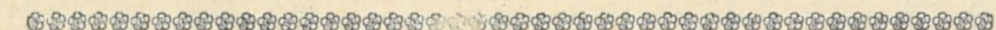
rate of interest, and the stock can be bought and sold in the usual way on the Stock Exchange.

Exchange of Stock.

"Manifestly, if and when the railways are transferred to the State, payment will be effected by the exchange of Government stock for railway stock bearing interest at fixed rates. The possibility of raising £1,000,000,000 of Consols to pay off the railway shareholders is not to be thought of outside Bedlam. There will be a market for Government railway stock, as there is a market for Indian railway stock or Consols, but while it will be an obligation on the State to meet the interest, the stock would be a first charge on profits, just as the debentures are now. We have previously directed attention to the fact that in the working of railways there are three conflicting interests—the public, the proprietors, and the employees. The elimination of



The staircase described in our Housing article. Our Special Commissioner describes them as dilapidated and dangerous. The photograph fully justifies the statement.



there is now a searching investigation into the unbusiness-like ways of railway directors they have only themselves to thank, for they, by their blunders, set the few remaining 'faithful sections' of the community against them.

Means of Nationalisation.

"It is assumed that the chief point in the inquiry will be the advisability of nationalisation. We will not here consider that question on its merits; that, presumably, is the duty of the Commission. But already it is said that the nationalisation of railways would, by reason of the huge sums involved, unsettle the money market. Nationalisation need not, and probably would not, necessitate the raising of a single penny. The fact that the cost is estimated at about £1,000,000,000 shows conclusively that direct payment is not the way in which the operation would be carried through. We have had two purchases within recent times by the State, or under the ægis of the State, to help us. The most recent was the purchase of the National Telephone Company. In the case of the Telephone Company the proprietors were paid off by the Government issuing Exchequer bonds, which the company resold and paid out in cash. But the amount was only some £12,000,000, so that it was possible to do this conveniently.

"The other is the purchase of the London Dock Companies by the newly-constituted Port of London Authority. In that case the proprietors were bought out by receiving in exchange A and B Stock of the Authority on certain agreed rates. The new stockholders

would still leave the other two not necessarily conflicting interests. But there is more than one way of successfully carrying out such a scheme, and much depends on whether the change is to be made in the interests of the public or of the employees. The fact that the Port of London Authority is a public body did not prevent a dock strike. The Authority had rights, and Parliamentary pressure was unavailing.

A Railway Ministry.

"The constitution of a railway ministry would be the solution. Railway ministries exist in France, Belgium, and Italy, where the State owns the railways. The exchange of scrip for scrip would, indeed, be an easy matter. The fixing of the rate at which such scrip should be exchanged would be a very different affair. What would the proprietors of Chatham Ordinary get? This stock has not had a dividend for years. It depends on the purchase price, but it is conceivable that on some lines the proprietors would welcome a change."

A SONG OF HOPE.

And a tale shall be told of a country,
Of a land in the midst of the sea,
And the people shall call it England,
In the days that are to be.
There more than one in a thousand,
In the days that are yet to come,
Shall have some hope of the morrow,
Some joy in the distant dawn.

IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS.
By Our TELEPHONE OPERATOR.
IV.—ALDERMAN PRICE LEWIS.

WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER: *Hello. Exchange!*
EXCHANGE: *Hello!*
W. W.: Put me on Alderman Price Lewis, please.

Ald. P. L.: *Hello, who's there?*

W. W.: The Labour monthly, THE WORKER.

Ald. P. L.: Ah! Yes! very interesting.

W. W.: What about your attack on the new Labour councillor?

Ald. P. L.: Ah, well! I really, I er—

W. W.: Now look here, Mr. Lewis, we think you made a most unjustifiable attack on Mr. Bent, and seeing you consider yourself as good as any Labour man we most strongly object to the way in which you attacked him.

Ald. P. L.: Why? How do you make that out?

W. W.: Well, first and foremost, you know that a new member in a fresh place feels the new position keenly, and to attack him in the way you have done is hitting below the belt.

Ald. P. L.: I did not mean it personally.

W. W.: Granted, but look here, Councillor Dickinson said there were 500 houses at present inhabited that were not fit for people to live in.

Ald. P. L.: Yes! Yes!

W. W.: Well, if that is so, they cannot be fit for pigs to live in.

Ald. P. L.: How do you make that out?

W. W.: Because the law says pigstyes have to be kept in a certain state of cleanliness, but there is no standard for human habitations, and some of these haven't been cleaned for years.

Ald. P. L.: Well!

W. W.: Then Councillor Bent was quite right.

Ald. P. L.: I—er—don't know, why didn't he give names.

W. W.: For obvious reasons, and publicity will be given in due course.

Ald. P. L.: That's all right.

W. W.: You say "but if there's insanitary dwellings it was a disgrace to the owners, and especially when such property belonged to representative men."

Ald. P. L.: Well, what's wrong with that?

W. W.: You say *if* there's insanitary property, we say *there is*, the late Mayor says *there is*, the medical officer says *there is*, and *you know* there is.

Ald. P. L. (excitedly): Steady, sir; don't be rash.

W. W.: I'm not rash, but I believe since you have become a part property owner you have become blinded to what is and is not a proper dwelling place, and have simply joined the throng of landlords whose one parrot cry is "My property, property, property!"

Ald. P. L.: Sir!

W. W.: Yes, sir; we, too, are determined that as long as there is one insanitary dwelling in our town we shall agitate for its destruction, and our men will voice the claims of Labour without any regard to property owners, and there will be a time when their voice will be heard without interruption, and they will not rest till our town is a model town, when a Horseley Fields and Monmore Green shall no longer be possible.

Ald. P. L.: Ah, you want to travel too fast.

W. W.: Never mind about travelling too fast; those gibes ill-become one who poses as a democrat. We are out to smash the slums, and we will have them removed. They are an eyesore, they are breeders of disease, they destroy the children and blight manhood; they have got to go and—

Ald. P. L.: Wolverhampton is no worse than other towns.

W. W.: That's a poor excuse. We are going to make it better than other towns by ceasing to send Liberal and Tory property owners who protect their old property.

Ald. P. L.: Ha! Ha!

W. W.: Remember the workers have only one enemy to fight, and that is Landlordism, and as you are a property owner, you, too, shall take your stand, and the people shall decide. And there shall be no brow beating inside the Council Chambers, and you will get the reward your ill-conceived action deserves. Ring off, please.

ST. PATRICK'S REUNION.

One of the most popular reunions of the year is that organised in connection with St. Patrick's Church, Wolverhampton. Many friends have been wondering what would become of it this year, on account of the sale of the Agricultural Hall, but we are glad to be able to announce that the Grand Theatre has been secured for Monday, December 15th, and everything will go merrily as usual. The children's entertainment at this re-union, which has been a feature of Wolverhampton's social life for nearly fifty years, is now acknowledged to be the most attractive of its kind in the Midlands. There will be a cantata, Gaelic dances, etc., and altogether a fine time is promised. Don't forget the date, Monday, December 15th.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH WOLVERHAMPTON?

A GLIMPSE INTO SOME HOUSING CONDITIONS.

INHUMAN LANDLORDISM.

By Our Special Commissioner.

It was only the other day when I was told by the Editor that he had a new mission for me. Tired of the ordinary routine of political activity, I received the information with a certain amount of pleasure—but my pleasure has diminished considerably as the result of the first instalment.

The Editor showed me clippings from the Press relating to various Town Council meetings, wherein it was set forth by those wights of the landlord persuasion that Wolverhampton was "no worse than other towns," and that really it was the people who were wrong, and that if anything wanted condemning it was not property but the tenants. In fact, from the Press cuttings I was shown one would be led to believe that Wolverhampton was quite an Arcadian paradise, abounding with sylvan glades, leaving such ultra-modern places as Bournville, Letchworth, etc., miles in the rear.

"I want you," said the Editor, "to have a look round the borough, take a note of what you see, and write it—with no exaggeration, just the plain facts. I want an absolutely impartial report."

Since I have returned from my first expedition I have come to the conclusion that no exaggeration is necessary so far as the district under review is concerned.

It was a bright, sunny morning, with a suggestion of frost in the air—just the morning to make one feel on good terms with everybody, and to think to themselves that this old world of ours is not such a bad place anyhow.

I had had no particular instructions as to what direction to take, so I wandered, puffing away at my pipe, down Victoria-street. Turning to the right I found myself in a street whose name was singularly suggestive of the afore-mentioned sylvan glades, and the green country of Salopia, but it is often the case that names go by contraries, and it was never more true than in the present instance.

This particular street—Salop-street—is one which abounds in slums of a disreputable type. It has not, as in many cases, even a pleasing external appearance, and at the back are crowded courts, in the fetid atmosphere of which disease finds congenial breeding-places, and in which the sun has little or no chance to shine.

The Besom Yard.

I did not for the moment concern myself with Salop-street, but sauntered along until lower down I came across Brook-street. I do not remember what it was which attracted my attention to it. I have a recollection that for some minutes a barrel organ had been grinding out the strains of "The Better Land," and it was just as I got to the street mentioned that the line burst forth

"Not there, not there, my child!"

I did not know whether to take this as a warning or not. The street has a peculiarly dismal appearance, and, warning or no warning, I determined to see what it was like. Local history says that Brook-street, or the "Besom Yard," was, as the name implies, the home of many of the old-time brush or besom-makers. That was many years ago, and yet the houses they occupied still stand, tenanted by the poorer class of people, and still providing rents for landlords, who must have been paid many times over for them.

I walked up to the end of the narrow street, past several courts, wondering where I should turn. The whole was a picture of squalid misery and poverty. I turned up Court No. 2.

Insanitary Conditions.

The width of the Court is about five yards. There are eight houses—four on either side—of which five were occupied. Along the centre runs the only drain for the eight houses. Down this has to be poured the whole of the dish water, cooking water, slops, etc., of all the tenants. At the end of either row of houses—or hovels—there are three pan closets. Those on the left run parallel with the end of the row, only a yard away, and two of them with no doors. The privies on the right-hand side of the court adjoin the end house, and certainly are in bit better condition. There are doors, but they are in such a condition as to give no privacy. One of the tenants informed me that owing to the stench in the summer the inhabitants of the house next to them generally had to leave and find fresh accommodation. As a matter of fact, I looked in one

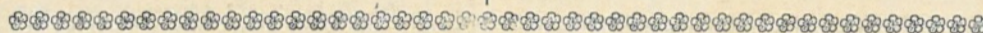
and was glad to get away as quickly as possible. How the tenants of the next house stand it I don't know.

I must here point out that the occupant of the house at the far end of the court must traverse the entire length of the court to use these "conveniences."

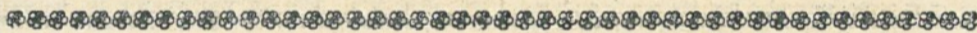
Similarly with the water supply. There is no sink or drain of any description in the houses. I went in one and was informed that there was only one party tap to sixteen houses. This tap is situated in Court No. 1, and the inhabitants of Courts Nos. 2 and 3 have to go round some distance to get their water.

Inside a "House."

I entered the house and spoke to the young woman who was evidently the wife of the tenant. And here let me say that the house was quite clean, the woman was neat and respectable,



A view of the walls of the living room of another house in the same court. It will be seen that not only is the paper off the wall, but also the plaster, exposing the bricks and mortar beneath.



and evidently not one to neglect her home and make it appear worse than it was.

The only living room downstairs was small and poky. There was nothing much the matter with the living room, except its size. I turned to go up the stairs, and was confronted by the most ramshackle and dilapidated staircase it would be possible to imagine for a dwelling house. There was no protection of any kind for those who used it. The stairs are of the spiral kind, and offer a very precarious foothold, besides being in such a condition as to give grave doubts as to their stability.

Indeed, the woman had informed me that her little child had a narrow escape only the other day, and that but for the presence of her father the child would most likely have been fatally injured.

Upstairs had the appearance of what was once one bedroom partitioned into two. The first bedroom has no privacy. The stairs run right into it, and to get to the other and larger room, I had to pass through it. The first room contained one double bed, leaving barely room to walk round. The second bedroom was larger and contained two beds. Both were without the least suggestion of wallpaper, being colour-washed in a bluish-white, which came off at a touch.

I must express the opinion that these hovels never ought to be used for human habitation. The Health Committee might sanction them, but I am sure, if my fellow citizens were allowed to look round they would be unanimous in their condemnation of such squalid conditions.

House Used as Stable.

In my humble judgment the houses, so far from being healthy, are a positive danger. Being back to back houses, the only door is at the front, and the small windows also. Therefore there can be no proper through air current. There is no accommodation to practice the cleanliness

which is essential to good health, there is no privacy where there is a family, and the whole bedroom arrangement is conducive of immorality of the worst type. Washing has to be hung from house to house across the narrow court, thus driving the children to the streets to play. I was informed that just round the corner was a house the same size in which a family of nine or ten made their "home."

In another house in Court No. 2 I was told that a horse, and later on a donkey, had been kept, but the landlord had insisted on their removal.

Opposite to the house which I inspected were three empty ones minus doors and windows, and generally in such a condition that one would have thought they would never be inhabited again. I was informed that there was talk of them being "put into order" in the near future.

Callous and Inhuman.

In connection with one of these I was told a story which made my blood boil at the callous inhumanity displayed. I give the story as it was related to me by a former tenant of the house, and which was corroborated by the women in the house I visited.

This tenant, a man about 40 years of age, says that he was suffering with rheumatism in his fingers and knees, and was unable to work. At the same time his wife was ill with pneumonia, and was being attended by a doctor (whose

The eight greatest Powers of the world spend £170,000,000 a year on their navies.

Great Britain spends nearly £50,000,000 a year on her navy—twice as much as Germany.

Since the Liberal Party was returned to power in 1906, despite its election cry of "peace and retrenchment," the expenditure on naval construction has increased by nearly £4,000,000 per annum.

Who benefits by this colossal expenditure upon the instruments of destruction and death?

The Nations do not benefit. The race in armaments does not make any nation more secure. As soon as one nation begins to build more ships its rivals follow its example. Instead of gaining security from attack by building a bigger navy, a nation only excites suspicion and enmity, and encourages other Powers in their turn to build against it.

Then, why do the Governments of Europe waste the people's money in this way?

Because they are dominated by the War Trust. The War Trust makes huge dividends and profits out of the orders it obtains to build warships.

In Great Britain the five largest armaments firms are members of the War Trust. The Government has its own State shipyards for building ships, but it dismisses its workers because work is slack, and—so completely is it dominated by the War Trust—gives its orders to private firms.

In 1909 a German "scare" was engineered. Afterwards it was proved that the scare was unjustified. But it served its purpose. The Liberal Government increased its naval construction by £4,600,000—and of this over £4,400,000 went to the contractors!

The British War Trust, though it thrives by appeals to "patriotism," does not allow patriotism to come before profits. It readily builds ships for Great Britain's "enemies." Italy and Austria are Germany's allies—but the British War Trust builds for them.

How is it the War Trust has so much power? Because it controls the Liberal and Conservative Parties. Both in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons leaders of the Liberal and Conservative Parties represent the War Trust. They are directors and shareholders.

Their names? Here we can only give a few of them. We will select ten from the Liberals—Lord Aberconway, founder of the National Liberal Club, Lord Glenconner, Mr. Asquith's brother-in-law, Lord Pirrie, Lord Ribblesdale, the Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt, the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, Sir Alfred Mond, Sir Stephen W. Furness, Sir J. Compton-Rickett.

These are almost picked out at random. We could give many more. And Tories too.

How can this scandal be stopped? Only by the workers capturing the Governments of the world. The Labour and Socialist Movement is the great Peace movement.

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Buy presents that your friends and relatives will greatly appreciate. We have ready for your inspection a splendid range of suitable Xmas gifts, and all will be useful to the recipient.

Here is a list of goods that will appeal to those who want to give a practical present.

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Scarves	Felt Hats	Socks
Gloves	Shirts	Caps

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SPEAKERS—

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Dec. 14. Mr. Horace Heath.
Dec. 21. Wolverhampton Male Voice Choir.
Dec. 28. Rev. Arthur B. Alwick, B.A., B.D.

ST. PATRICK'S REUNION,

Grand Theatre, Monday, Dec. 15th, 1913.

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT,

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BRANCH MEETINGS held on Saturday Even-
ings as follows:—

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" 2—VINE HOTEL.
" 3—LABOUR ASSEMBLY ROOMS.
" 4—LABOUR ASSEMBLY ROOMS.
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All Boot Operatives of both sexes, likewise Boot
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Branch Meetings held on Saturday evenings as follows:—

- No. 1 Branch, Town Hall Hotel.
No. 2 " Labour Assembly Rooms.
General Union: Hand and Bottle, Victoria Street.

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51, Worcester Street.

P.S.A. NOTES.

It is evident that a great amount of work is being done in connection with the new Brotherhoods at the Y.M.C.A. and Waterloo-road Baptist Church respectively, and although I believe that there is a steady growth in each case, yet it is apparent that the men of Wolverhampton are not responding to the "Brotherhood appeal" in such a whole-hearted manner as many other towns with a much less population have done. The work that is so ungrudgingly given is worthy of the enthusiastic support of every citizen; and surely the "aims and objects of the movement," set out below (quoted from the constitution of the National Council), will appeal to every democrat:

"To lead men and women into the Kingdom of God."

"To unite men in Brotherhoods of mutual help."

"To win the masses of the people for Jesus Christ."

"To encourage the study of social science."

"To enforce the obligations of Christian Citizenship."

"To promote the unity of social service."
(The italics are mine.)

Reports from all over the country show most gratifying results. It is recorded that the number of societies now established in this country is well over 2,000, with an approximate membership of more than half a million men. That is very encouraging—but what about the work? Even a large membership, essential as it is, is not everything. I heard a speaker once make this remark: "I would rather address half-a-dozen 'enthusiasts' than a room full of 'indifferents.'" He was right.

There is something else besides regular attendance required if any organisation is to make progress. Well, a movement that secures the active support of men like the following social workers and thinkers must necessarily be a movement of unusual activity:—Messrs. J. R. MacDonald, M.P., Keir Hardie, M.P., G. H. Roberts, M.P., Arthur Henderson, M.P., Philip Snowden, M.P., George Lansbury, Victor Grayson, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, Sir Oliver Lodge, Rev. C. Silvester Horne, M.P., etc., etc.

Speaking at the Oakley-place Brotherhood, Clapham, a few weeks ago, Sir Victor Horsley said: "It was the Brotherhood movement that was responsible for the remarkable change in the attitude of the Christian churches towards social problems. Till quite recently the idea that Mammon should be controlled by moral principles was unheard of, but . . . at the great representative gatherings in connection with the Baptist Union and the Episcopal Church, the principle had been upheld that the wage of the labourer must be the first charge on the produce of labour."

Dr. J. L. Gordon, the great Canadian preacher and brotherhood leader, who recently visited these shores, in a farewell speech at Bristol said: "He had been profoundly impressed by his visit to the Old Country. He was convinced that the brotherhoods would be a great factor in the solution of the problems that presently confront the world. He predicted that eventually there would be a universal language, which would be English. There would be a complete abolition of all tariff walls; there would be political equality for men and women; there would be an equal distribution of the wealth of the world according to skill and ability; there would be some arrangement whereby every man had a piece of land to call his own. In the accomplishment of these things the Brotherhood movement would play a big part."

Further evidence of the "life of the movement" is manifest in the announcement of the great National Campaign which the National Council has decided to organise throughout the country next year. By the use of platform and pulpit, open-air meetings at factories, mines, and

J. L. TANNAR, Ltd.,
Makers of the Renowned NON-TREAD-OVER BOOT,
ARE NOW SHOWING A LARGE AND VARIED STOCK OF
LADIES & GENTLEMEN'S SEASONABLE FOOTWEAR.
SHAPES UNIQUE. LOWEST PRICES. WEAR UNSURPASSABLE.

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Any of which make Useful and Acceptable Xmas Presents.

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WE ADVANCE UPON APPROVED SECURITY.
£9 REPAYABLE by easy instalments extending over
21 months. TOTAL COST, £2 9s.

£18—REPAYABLE 2/6 per week. TOTAL COST, £4 13s.
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OTHER AMOUNTS BY ARRANGEMENT.
Period of Repayment being 3 YEARS and 6 MONTHS.
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J. RUSSELL JARVIE, OLD CHURCH STEPS,
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FRUIT AND POTATO DEALER,
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Corner of JACKSON & LOWE STREETS
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I.L.P. NOTES.

Special Whist Drives.—Special whist drives
are being held in the I.L.P. Rooms, Dudley-
street, on the second and fourth Mondays in
December, with the object of "raising the
wind." Will all members turn up and cause
a draught. The price is 6d.

Education Class.—An Educational Class com-
menced on November 21, the subject chosen for
which is "The Economic Basis of Socialism."
The class meets on Fridays at 8 p.m. (fort-
nightly), and a qualified lecturer appointed from
headquarters attends to assist the students. To
all those really in earnest, a feature of this kind
should strongly appeal. The local secretary is
Mr. Frank Lester, to whom all communications
relating thereto should be addressed.

Subscriptions.—For the future, will all mem-
bers note that subscriptions can be paid at the
Rooms on branch meeting nights and every Tues-
day, Thursday, and Saturday. Also at the Labour
Church on Sunday nights. I earnestly appeal
to members to bring their subs. Don't wait to
be called upon. We are busy, and we want to
use our time in dealing with the unconverted.

Labour Church.—The Labour Church shows
prospects of a revival. Kindly advertise the
fact among your friends. Tell them that the
Labour Church is the Workers' Church. A
church free from creed or cant. We have some
excellent speakers booked. We have a comfort-
able, well-lighted room in Queen-square, and it
certainly ought to be crowded every Sunday.
Come and hear Councillor J. W. Kneeshaw on
Sunday, December 7.

E. F.

Printed for the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour
Council by the National Labour Press, at 30, Black-
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Hill at 35, Queen Square, Wolverhampton.

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