

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

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MOTHER AND CHILD.

INTERESTING ADDRESS ON "NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY" IN WOLVERHAMPTON.

There was a good attendance at the Co-operative Hall, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, December 9th, when, under the auspices of the Women's Co-operative Guild, an address on "The National Care of Maternity" was given by Mrs. Hills, of London. Mrs. Perry occupied the chair, and delegates were present from all the working-women's organisations in the borough.

Mrs. HILLS, who had a cordial reception, said that the question was one of the utmost importance because it was a question of maintaining and preserving the vital strength of the nation. When it was borne in mind that in England and Wales more than 250 babies under the age of 12 months, and at least that number of unborn babies, died day by day, it was really a terrible state of things.

People were realising to-day, not only that we cannot afford to throw lives away so recklessly, but that the war which was now proceeding would have its direct and terrible effect on the health and strength of the nation as a whole. The grief and anxiety consequent upon the war was bound to have its effects upon the women and children. They know better than anyone that when there was poverty in the home, it was always the mother who deprived herself in order to give comfort to her children, and if the nation did not give heed to this matter it was evident that it would have its effect on the next generation. Another point in connection with the war that vitally affected the well-being of the nation, was the fact that owing to the Army taking only the strongest men the men who were rejected by the recruiting officials as physically unfit would be the fathers of the next generation. It meant that the children in a good many cases would be the offspring of weaklings, with the consequence that these children would not have the same chance of success in life as those who were more fortunately circumstanced. Surely it was the duty of the nation to give the children as good a chance as possible to become worthy citizens—children who could help to build the world what it was their desire it should be.

Claims of Co-operative Guild.

This great problem, the significance of which statesmen were now beginning to realise, the women of the Co-operative Guild realised long ago. They had the question discussed up and down the country, and they set to work to draw up a scheme by means of which the nation should recognise its duty to the women who bore the men and the women of the future. The scheme of the Women's Co-operative Guild was based on the principle that every woman had a right to conditions under which she could bear and rear a healthy child. It was not a question of patronage or charity, it was the right of the woman, and she should receive it from the nation as a right through the municipal authorities. That was the basis of the claim of the Women's Co-operative Guild. It was also based on further great principles. It was based on the realisation and understanding that the child's life is a continuous thing, and that if you are going to give the child a chance to grow up into a strong man or woman, there must not be any period in its life when it may develop ailments and illnesses.

They had recognised now for some time that the child was father to the man, and with this recognition a commencement had been made in doing something for the school children. They were told, however, by school doctors and nurses that when the children came to them at the age of five years many of them had contracted all kinds of ailments which might have been checked had they received attention and proper treatment earlier in life. This difficulty had now been recognised and they contended that it was of no use waiting until the child was five years of age; they had to get at the child as soon as it was born.

Thousands of Lives Saved.

About seven years ago the Notification of Births Act was passed, and it was interesting to note that in the seven years since that Act was adopted, 184,000 babies lives had been saved. However, there were many people who believed that more could be done, and centres had been founded in various districts to which mothers were encouraged to bring their babies week by week to have them weighed, etc., with a view to seeing if they were progressing satisfactorily, and also to get advice and treatment when the child was ailing. It had been found that this work had resulted in a great improvement. They had health visitors, and, in many places, infant consultations. It would strike them all, however, continued Mrs. Hills, that even that was not a continuous scheme. That only recognised the baby from birth until the end of the first year, and the child from the ages of five to 14. The baby, however, did not begin its existence on the day it was born; it commenced its existence a long time before that, and in many cases its life may have been permanently destroyed before it

was a child at all. A scheme which was to be complete, must, as the Co-operative Guild had always pointed out, recognise that the child's life began nine months before it came into this world, and that any full and adequate treatment must begin before the birth of the child by advice to the mother and treatment of all those minor ailments which the women of to-day took so terribly for granted, but which, very often, were not necessary at all. That was one of the gaps which required filling up. During the first five years a child might contract all sorts of ailments, and it was common knowledge that, by the time the children reached the school age, a large percentage of them had already contracted all sorts of ailments. Those were vital years, and they were years which must be recognised and accounted for in any scheme which was to safeguard the health of the child completely.

Treatment Before Birth.

The Local Government Board, which had based its scheme on the one which the Co-operative Guild had put forward, recognised that there must be this continuity. That scheme stipulated that visiting should begin before the birth of the child, and it also provided that there should be a centre to which the women could go, and where there would be a doctor to give them advice. There ought to be adequate hospital treatment in cases where the woman was very ill. The Local Government Board scheme also provided that there should be maternity beds, and as regards the birth of children, it provided that poverty should not prevent any woman from having the best and most skilful treatment. Then with regard to the formation of centres, these places should not exist simply to treat the babies when they are ill, but their function would be to prevent mothers and children from contracting illnesses by giving them advice at the very outset.

Some people to-day spoke as if it was only the working class woman who did not know how to look after her baby. It was true that the woman belonging to the upper or the middle class did not suffer so much by reason of this ignorance, but it was simply owing to the fact that her baby was looked after and cared for by trained nurses who were experienced in that line. They wanted to put at the disposal of the working woman the knowledge, skill, and experience which the rich woman had at her disposal, and that would be done when they had maternity centres.

Half Cost Borne by the Government.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., who was approached a short time ago by a deputation of women on the question at issue had promised to send round a circular to the Local Relief Committees suggesting that they could not spend their money better than in providing nourishment for expectant and nursing mothers, and she was glad to say that in a good many towns to-day this was being done. They should remember that their Relief Fund Committee at Wolverhampton had received the above mentioned circular from Mr. Samuel, and it was for the working women to insist—and they had a perfect right to insist—that, not only should dining centres be established for mothers, but that no expectant or nursing mother should go hungry. They should bear in mind also that 50 per cent. of the expenditure, including salaries, was refunded by the Local Government Board to Local Authorities undertaking this work.

If there was any scheme of that sort being considered in Wolverhampton, it was for them to see that there was no gap in the working, and that it developed until they had a perfect scheme in operation. (Applause.)

Mrs. J. L. ADAMSON moved the following resolution:

"That this meeting urges that the Wolverhampton Town Council should take advantage of the grant offered by the Local Government Board to extend its work in maternity and child welfare. It particularly requests that maternity centres should be established where advice and treatment may be given to expectant mothers, also babies and children up to school age."

She said that owing to the high rate of infantile mortality all the working women's organisations in the town had taken up the question and had carried on a strong joint agitation for the maternity centre. In addition, Mrs. Adamson said, they had the strong support of the Trades and Labour Council and the WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER. The Wolverhampton Town Council had, she continued, already sanctioned School Clinics, but they wanted to co-ordinate the work of prevention with that of alleviation.

Mrs. DALE, who seconded, said they were not asking for charitable institutions; they demanded municipal maternity centres under the public health authority. They would keep on sending resolutions and bringing this question to the front to let those in office understand that the working women were determined to have these centres.

The resolution was carried unanimously and a vote of thanks accorded Mrs. Hills for her address.

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THE
Wolverhampton Worker.

JANUARY, 1915.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR.

We commented in our last issue on the New Spirit—the spirit of unity which had manifested itself throughout public life since the outbreak of the war. A glance at the report of the last meeting of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council would rather indicate that we were premature in so doing, at least so far as Wolverhampton itself is concerned. Two resolutions were passed at that meeting, one drastic in the effect it would have were the Trades Council compelled to go to the extreme length of putting it into operation, and the other a vote of confidence in the Trade Union representatives on the Relief Committees. The complaint, we understand, is that obstacles are deliberately being placed in the way of the proper performance of the work of a certain committee, which consists mainly of working-class representatives, and that various members of the Central Executive in Wolverhampton of the National Relief Committee have gone out of their way not only to prevent them doing their work, but to deliberately heap unwarranted insults on their heads. This is a grievous state of affairs, and we regret that responsible Trade Union delegates should have to appear before their organisations with a report such as the one presented to the Trades and Labour Council.

The Dignity of Labour.

The Mayor of Wolverhampton has been directly charged. We do not wish to condemn him unheard, but we have complete confidence in our own public representatives and know that they are reliable, trustworthy, and anxious only for the welfare of those whom they were elected to serve. We protest against the gratuitous insults they have to put up with from a certain class of people. We believe in the dignity of Labour, and we believe that Labour has a just claim to the respect of any other section, and we assert that when it does not meet with that respect it is perfectly justified in making threats and, if necessary, in carrying them out. We hope that will not be necessary in this instance. We desire to see unity among all classes at the present time, but we refuse to accept unity if it means the complete abandonment of our self-respect. We object to people going round the town appealing to the working classes to take up arms, and then, when it comes to looking after dependents, for those people to turn round and refuse to carry out their legitimate duties. In this instance it is the question of providing work for women who are in distress owing to the war. Surely it is better to provide these people with something to do rather than dole out charity. However, that is not the opinion of some of our local administrators, and, consequently, there has been considerable friction.

Public Meetings Demanded.

In our opinion the root of the trouble lies in the fact that the Relief Committee conducts its deliberations behind closed doors. It is not in the public interest that public

excluded. The admittance of the Press and the resultant publicity has a wholesome effect by repressing those who otherwise would put their class consciousness and selfish interests before the interests of the community. Anyone who has taken part in public business knows that sentiments are expressed "in committee" which those who hold such opinions dare not express in public meeting. They value their positions on public bodies too much to incur public odium, and, consequently, the electors rarely get to know of the little idiosyncracies of these people. While we admit that it is essential that a certain amount of public business should be carried out "in committee," we are of opinion that the public should have access to meetings where matters of such importance as the relief of distress consequent on the war are discussed. This is a matter of vital concern not only to those immediately concerned, but also to the soldiers and sailors themselves and the public generally. We demand that the meetings of the Wolverhampton Executive Committee should be open to the Press and public in the same way as the Distress Committee, the Town Council, and the Education Committee are. This is not an unheard of proposition. We believe that many similar committees up and down the country conduct their business openly. At all events we ask that this should be done in Wolverhampton, and we do so in the knowledge that we have behind us the opinion of organised Labour and the public generally. G.

ENGINEERS' MISTAKE.

HOW THEY LOST A PARLIAMENTARY SEAT.

Writing in the *Amalgamated Engineers' Monthly Journal and Report*, Mr. Robert Young (general secretary), after referring to the death of Mr. Joseph Pointer, M.P. for the Attercliffe Division of Sheffield, says:

"His death creates a Parliamentary vacancy in Sheffield. Pointer thought Sheffield should have an A.S.E. member as one of its M.P.'s, seeing the A.S.E. is the strongest Trade Union in the city. Had it not been for the unfortunate vote taken recently, an A.S.E. member would probably now be selected. Why our members, who have paramount industrial interests to protect in the House of Commons, should have stultified themselves by refusing to increase their number by putting forward additional candidates requires some explanation and more justification. The last Delegate Meeting really made it incumbent upon the A.S.E. to put forward at least ten candidates, yet many members who actively proclaimed their conviction that the findings of a Delegate Meeting were binding and conclusive, just as actively and quite illogically destroyed their own conviction and the finding of the Delegate Meeting at one and the same time by their opposition to Labour representation, and its support by the A.S.E. Perhaps some of our advanced comrades would do well to consider more carefully their political principles before recording their votes on political matters as they affect Trade Unionism.

"The Labour Party may not have been, and probably is not now, their ideal of a political party, but it is the best we have. The 3s. advance in London, the attention secured to wages in favour of our members working in many parts of the country under war conditions, the work done for pensions to our soldiers and their dependents, and the question of Government contracts amply demonstrate the utility of Parliamentary representation. The vote given by many of our members was the legitimate vote of Liberal and Tory working men against the Labour Party, but it was also the vote of many who are Labour and Socialist in opinion voting against the Labour Party, and as a result also against the Trades Disputes Bill and in favour of the Osborne Judgment.

"As I say, it needs some explanation and more justification. We are in the anomalous position of being by law legally empowered to put forward candidates, but by vote of the members hindered from carrying out our powers and the decision of the late Delegate Meeting. When judge-made law said you shall not levy yourselves for political purposes, some stalwarts called upon us to defy the law and go to prison. When the position is gained by Parliamentary action some stalwarts of the same political faith protest against Parliamentary representation. Such action is not only illogical and inconsistent, it is also destructive of all real democratic progress under present

RAILWAY REVOLUTION.

HOW THE WAR HAS PRACTICALLY NATIONALISED THE INDUSTRY.

Truly, times are changing, says Mr. Donald Ross in *Reynolds' newspaper*. Not many months ago the average Tory M.P. denounced anyone who demanded railway nationalisation as a revolutionary who ought to be gagged—or dealt with in some equally drastic fashion—and now we have Tory members congratulating the Government on having taken the step some of us have for so long advocated. For in effect the railways have been nationalised. At the first breath of national danger the Government said, to all intents and purposes: The railways of the country are a national institution. In a period of grave emergency we cannot have the arteries of the nation in the hands of private individuals, who, however well meaning they may be, owe it to their shareholders to extract all the profit they can out of their concerns. So, with a stroke of the pen, a National Railway Council was formed, freight wars and competition ceased between the various companies, and the whole carrying trade of the railways was run on national lines. There was nothing really remarkable about such a step; there was no revolutionary idea behind it; it was simply an action dictated by the commonest sort of common sense.

There are some industries that cannot be regarded as ordinary commercial concerns. They are so interwoven or wrapped round the lives and activities of the people that it is perfectly ridiculous to try to run them as ordinary private enterprises. And in some cases this is perfectly obvious to everybody. The Post Office for instance: Where is the man who will suggest that every town should have a number of postal companies competing one with another for the delivery of letters, telegrams, and postal packages? Yet in an industry which is equally

Vital to the Nation,

the railway industry, it has taken a European war to demonstrate the fatuity of running such concerns for private ends.

Before going on to deal with the change effected, however, let us just look at the claims of the opponents of State ownership. It is claimed, in the first place, that competition provides a better service than a State monopoly can provide. In the second place, we are told that cheaper rates are the rule under private ownership. Thirdly, it is announced that nationalisation would be confiscation, or State robbery of the individual. Take the first claim: I readily admit that the service between London and certain big provincial towns is excellent but the services across country are generally execrable. As for charges, it is a pity that I have not the space to go into this question in detail, but I will give one example: A third-class return ticket from London to Manchester costs 30s. 11d. On the State-owned railways of Denmark the cost for the same distance is 14s. 4d.

There is another important point to notice here. I have said "where active competition exists," but, as a matter of plain fact, active competition is ceasing to exist, and full competition scarcely ever did exist. Nearly half a century ago Parliament had to interfere with the railway companies because they were combining so as to fleece the public more effectively, and this combination has been going on ever since. Now with regard to unification of the lines, we who demand nationalisation have always claimed that it would do away with useless labour. This has been one of the charges made against us. We have been told that if we had our way we should greatly increase the number of unemployed. Our reply to that has been that if some men were released from the performing of labour, which is in no sense productive, they could be put on to other work and the scandalously long hours which so many railwaymen now put in could be reduced.

Mr. Walkden Complimented.

And now that the Government has unified the railway system, that is what has actually happened, largely owing to the labours of Mr. A. G. Walkden, the indefatigable secretary of the Railway Clerks' Association. The canvassers and managers of the competing offices of the various railway companies have been called in, because, now that the Government has guaranteed the companies their dividends, there is no longer any reason for them to compete. At the Railway Clearing House, where thousands of clerks are ordinarily employed sorting out the affairs of the various companies, work is almost at a standstill, because it is no longer necessary now that the companies are as one. Besides the hundreds of the men who are serving with the Colours from the Clearing House, nearly 300 have been drafted out to other stations. Then, it must be remembered, whilst over 50,000 railway employees have joined the army, nothing like that number of new hands have been taken on in their place.

Now why should the Government allow the railways to drift back to the old state when the war is over—or, rather, can the Government allow that? But, in our enthusiasm for nationalisation, let us not forget to be a bit business-like. From financial sources I learn that the terms under which the Government have taken control of the lines and rolling stock are necessarily generous. To put it bluntly, the companies are to have rather better than average dividends. That is not the way to do it. Purchase the railways (that is the answer to the confiscation croakers), but purchase them on the fair terms outlined by Mr. Gladstone seventy years ago, twenty-five years' purchase of the annual divisible profits, estimated on the average of the three then preceding years.

Finally, we may be sure that the railway directors will come off all right in any change that is made; let us make equal provision for the improvement of the conditions of the employees, conditions which are still, in many cases,

UNDER THE SEARCHLIGHT

By "C. VERE."

The 17,000 free distribution of this paper, it should be understood, only covers a guaranteed circulation in the Western Division of Wolverhampton.

I hear of a resident in the East being so jealous of his near neighbours' good fortune in this respect that he has admitted he constantly steps over the border and "pinches" a copy when one is observed to be peeping from under a door following the visit of the distributor.

While I appreciate the devotion to our cause prompting such eagerness to obtain the WORKER, I desire to say it would be better to bear in mind that the WORKER will be forwarded post free to any part for 12 months for the sum of one shilling.

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There are many Wolverhampton Labour men at the front, and it is pleasing to note that applications have been received for copies of the WORKER to be sent to the fighting line.

Mr. W. M. Adamson, who was at the last meeting of the Town Council, elected a co-opted member of the Distress Committee, is well-known among the workers of South Staffordshire in his capacity of organiser for the Workers' Union.

His wide experience should prove highly valuable on the Committee, whose policy he may be expected to be greatly instrumental in shaping towards the inauguration of practical schemes for dealing with unemployment.

The Factory Act lays it down that workshops must be thoroughly renovated at least once a year.

Few working-class tenants are fortunate enough to get their homes repapered and white-washed throughout once in five years!

Health Committees would do well to take the matter up. The one is certainly as important as the other.

Mr. Justice Bankes's "considered judgment" in the recent action arising out of the Tonypandy riots in 1910, would be immensely amusing were the verdict not so distinctively ironical.

It will be remembered that at the time of the great coal strike the Glamorgan Coal Company and the Duffryn Coal Company had the protection of a special contingent of London police.

It seems a ridiculous suggestion to make, that after the miners had suffered such merciless violence at the hands of the police, who were guarding the interests of the colliery companies, that they should now, as though in grateful acknowledgment thereof, be called upon to foot the bill incurred by the bludgeoning battalion.

Yet this is exactly what the judgment in this particular law action amounts to, for the Glamorgan County Councils, by Justice Bankes's ruling, will have to pay £29,000 (with costs), expenditure incurred in the housing and feeding of the police who were despatched into the district during the strike.

Stay of execution was, however, granted, so we may hope that when the case is taken to a higher Court the liability will be transferred to the colliery owners.

The final result should be watched with close interest by the workers.

During the whole epoch of trade union repression in the early part of the nineteenth century, whilst thousands of workmen suffered for the crime of combination, there is absolutely no case on record in which an employer was punished for the same offence, although combinations of masters was a well-known fact!

The following story came to my notice in a paper the other day.

It is a ray of hope in a time of gloom—the gloom surrounding the fall of Antwerp—and it is so beautiful and such a contrast to so much we hear at present that I think it bears repetition.

The wife of a colonel was making the round of a Liverpool hospital, and stopped at the bedside of a wounded Highlander—a very bad case. The gallant fellow, one of whose legs had been recently amputated, was toying with a German helmet, evidently a trophy of war.

"Well," said the visitor, "I suppose you killed your man?"

"Well, naw," modestly replied the soldier. "You see, it was like this. He lay on the field pretty near me with an awfu' bad wound. I was losin' a lot o' blood fra' this leg o' mine, but I managed to crawl up to him an' bound him up as best I could.

He did the same for me. A' this, o' coorse, wi' nawthin' at a' said between, for I knew nae German an' theither man no a word o' English. When he'd done, not seein' hoo else ta' thank him, I just smiled, an' by way o' token handed him my Glangarry, an' he smiled back an' gave me his helmet."

Atrocities and horrors may be forgotten; deeds of love cement us together, and help us to realise

OUR WOMEN'S CORNER.

(By "Laurel.")

WHAT ABOUT THOSE PENSIONS?

Resolutions on the £1 a week for soldiers and sailors and dependents, in connection with the national campaign, have been sent galore from all parts of the country by the organised Trade Union and the Women's movements, but so far no pronouncement has been made by the special Committee appointed by the Government to deal with the matter and draft a new scale. Since the commencement of the war, many of the dependents of our soldiers and sailors have been forced to sacrifice the ordinary comforts and essentials of life, and in addition have been harried and bullied by the "charity ladies" in a worse manner than even the most hardened Poor Law Relieving Officer could ever adopt. The women have been accused of wasting their magnificent allowance (?) on drink, and the Government have inaugurated a police-spying system of supervision on them. Yet in face of these facts they wonder why there is a shortage of recruits. Let the Government abolish this obnoxious system of espionage and institute the minimum scale of pensions and separation allowances as advocated by the organised workers; then recruits will answer the call.

What Australia Has Done.

It is therefore interesting to note the example of Australia on this important question. The Federal Government having sanctioned a scheme of pensions which ought to shame our Government into action. Their minimum for soldiers' widows is £1 a week, exclusive of allowances to the children, which is 5s. per week for each child under 16 years of age. In case of total incapacity full pension is paid to the soldier, half pension for his wife, and 5s. a week on each child. Pensions are also provided for partial incapacity. If Australia can do this—why not Great Britain? Perhaps women are impatient; but how long, oh, how long?

The Council and Working Women.

Congratulations to Councillor Bent on his spirited remarks at the last Council meeting. The Women's Co-operative Guild had sent a resolution to the Council (which is given elsewhere in these columns), and Councillor Bent asked for this to be read, and wanted to know why letters from working women did not get the same attention and publicity as letters from "ladies" in different positions in society. The Working Women's Organisations have been cognisant of this snobbish attitude of the Council for some time, and all they ask is that their communications shall be treated with the same courtesy and consideration as is extended to others. Finally the letter was read, and I confess to a feeling of amusement at the remarks of the Mayor "that before the letter had been received, or even thought of, the Health Committee had been considering a scheme, which would be placed before them at their next Council meeting." It does seem peculiar that the Health Committee did not begin to consider their scheme until after the working women's campaign commenced in the early part of 1914. Perhaps the Mayor has allowed this fact to escape his notice, but I think the women can afford to smile.

Not for Wolverhampton.

Right pleased was I to know that the recent War Office order to place the wives of soldiers under "police surveillance" was not to be adopted in Wolverhampton. I do not often agree with Alderman Gibbons, but in this instance I heartily endorse his statement that this order should never have been issued.

Margaret MacDonald Memorial.

It is three years since Margaret Ethel MacDonald passed away "to where beyond these voices there is peace," and a beautiful memorial has just been unveiled in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. I am glad that it typifies her love for the little children. If there was one cause more than another that she worked whole-heartedly for, it was the cause of the little ones. At the time of her death she had planned to open a Baby Clinic in memory of her friend, Mrs. Middleton, to demonstrate to the Government the necessity of organised effort to save the babies of the nation. That Clinic was eventually opened by the Women's Labour League as a joint memorial to Mrs. MacDonald and her friend, and it has undoubtedly been an object-lesson to our legislators, so much so that to-day the Local Government Board is urging Local Authorities to establish Maternity Centres where babies and children up to school age can receive medical attention and treatment. Margaret MacDonald was a noble woman with a noble purpose in life for the uplifting of humanity. London ought indeed to be proud to honour such a daughter.

WORK AND WARFARE.

"Why it isn't much change when we ask the South Wales collier to go on the battlefield. Many of your working places are dark and dismal, aye, and as dangerous as the trenches at the front. They talk about the Jack Johnsons of the Germans, what about the bombs of Senghenydd? They are not to be compared with them—they swoop 400 of you at a time into eternity." These words in the speech of Mr. Tom Richards, M.P., at Cardiff were appreciated more than anything the Prime Minister said at the same meeting. They "got home," as the saying is. They are true. Peace is just as dangerous to the workers as war. Every seven years there are over a million persons killed and wounded in industrial accidents. If we add those who die from industrial diseases, like consumption, the total would be appalling. Warfare, then, can bring very few fresh terrors to the workers.

ARMY CONTRACTS.

A FEW INSTANCES OF HOW THE COUNTRY IS ROBBED.

We are pleased to see that the War Emergency Workers' National Committee has established a special sub-committee to inquire into and report upon cases of sweating, excessive charges, bad quality, and corruption in connection with the Army and Navy contracts. It is common knowledge that the Army and Navy contractors, like the Angel of Death, view wartime as a period of harvesting, and directly the contractor sets out to supply the Army or the Navy up goes the prices, down goes the quality, and every opportunity is taken to economise in the direction of wages.

We have a case just brought to our notice in the Ipswich district, where a firm is paying 4d. for the making of a bed, and the women have to provide cotton, which leaves them 3d. per bed. Comparatively this is a good rate, as another firm in the district is paying 1d. for the same work, and by putting in a long day at full pressure women can earn 1s.

To quote a few of the instances of robbery: Horses were bought in Hungary at from £8 to £12 each and sold to the Government for £29 each. Of the £111,000 paid by the Government for these horses £45,000 went into the pockets of a few contractors, and then it was found that the animals supplied were unable to do the work for which they were purchased. Oats, which were said to be surplus Army stock, and which had cost 17s. 11d. per 100lb., were sold at 11s., and then rebought for the Army. One contractor gained £1 on every 300lb. of oats which the Army sold to him and repurchased. Over 1,350,000 tins of jam which should each have contained 1lb. weighed only ¾lb.—*Dockers' News Bulletin.*

MRS. HAROLD HILLS.

Mrs. Harold Hills (Margaret Robertson), whose address on the "National Care of Maternity" is reported on page 1, was born



in London in 1882, and was educated at the North London Collegiate School for Girls. From there she took an open scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford, and at the end of three years took first-class honours in the school of English Literature. Then she took a scholarship to the Cambridge Training College, and after a year's training there filled a post as English Mistress at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School for Girls, Mansfield. She had only taught, however, for two years when she was drawn into the Women's Suffrage movement, and abandoned her teaching to become an organiser and speaker for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. With this movement she has been associated ever since, and she has spoken at many hundreds of meetings, both large and small. The largest have been in the Albert Hall, London, and in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester (where she debated with Mrs. Humphrey Ward, the voting resulting in a triumphant victory for women's suffrage). She has taken part in many elections, especially since the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies adopted its policy of supporting the Labour candidate in three-cornered fights. There has scarcely been a three-cornered election for several years in which she has not been actively engaged. She is also a member of the Independent Labour Party and the Women's Labour League, and has often contributed articles to the *Labour Leader* and the *Scottish Forward*. Since the war began she has been working for the N.U.W.S.S. and the Women's Co-operative Guild in support of the Local Government Board scheme for the care of maternity. Mrs. Hills married, in August last, a doctor in the Special Reserve of the R.A.M.C., who had to go straight to the front, and has now been for nearly four months incarcerated in a German fortress.

FREE MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I notice that the WORKER has issued a list of medical gentlemen who are giving their services to our soldiers' and sailors' wives and families. No mention, however, is made of the Wolverhampton Friendly Societies' Medical Association, who have been attending those who required it since the war commenced and are doing the same now. Trusting that you will insert the same.—I remain, yours faithfully,
JNO. J. HUMPHREYS, Secretary,
Friendly Societies' Medical Association,
Lynton-street, Wolverhampton.

MAYOR SEVERELY CRITICISED.

EXTRAORDINARY REPORT AT WOLVERHAMPTON TRADES COUNCIL MEETING.

THREAT TO WITHDRAW CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council, which met on Thursday, December 17, had under review the work of the Labour representatives on the National Relief Committee, and considerable discussion took place on the question of women's employment.

Mr. WILLIAM M. ADAMSON introduced the subject in a report during the course of which he strongly criticised the attitude of the Mayor (Alderman A. B. Bantock) towards the Labour representatives and the scheme for the provision of work for unemployed women.

Mr. ADAMSON said the first point to which he desired to draw their attention was the large proportion of employers represented directly or indirectly to the administrative body of the National Relief Fund in Wolverhampton, as compared with the representation accorded to the workers and the Trade Union movement generally. However, the Trades Council could be assured that though they as Labour representatives were few in number, they would not be quelled by the overwhelming majority they had to face. (Hear, hear.) Many questions of importance to the workers had been fought by them as representatives of Labour.

Referring to the Women's Employment Sub-Committee, Mr. Adamson said that this committee was appointed during the time the late Mayor (Councillor Skidmore) was in office. Investigations, etc., were made by the committee, the majority of the members of which were, as laid down by the instructions of the Local Government Board and the Government Committee, working women.

A Change.

When the present Mayor came into office, however, a change was brought about. According to the rules and regulations the Mayor became the chairman of the Women's Employment Committee, the Mayoress also being a member of the Committee in question. Almost immediately after this change had been effected, every obstacle that could be placed in the way of the representatives of the workers on the Committee was put there, not for the purpose of seeing how they could overcome them, but with the definite intention of preventing anything being done for the unemployed women and girls in Wolverhampton.

Following investigations which were made, the Committee decided, in view of the very large number of unemployed women and girls, to recommend to the Executive Committee that a scheme of employment in connection therewith be drafted and put into operation. A Sub-Committee was therefore formed to carry out the investigations in connection with this work, but every obstacle had been placed in their way.

The speaker also said that he had never previously understood why the Mayor of a Municipality was referred to as "His Worship," but now it was quite evident to him that "every true and loyal citizen" was expected to kneel on bended knee and, with upraised hands, say, "Whatever be thy command, we will serve." (Laughter.) The Labour representatives, however, would have none of this "boot-licking" procedure—(Hear, hear)—and it doubtless came as a surprise to the Mayor, continued Mr. Adamson, that the women on that Women's Employment Committee had opinions of their own, and were determined that the business of a Committee should be carried out in a democratic manner. The Mayor, in regard to certain matters, stated that unless he could have his way, nothing would be done, but the question was put to the vote and he was defeated. Not being content with that, however, he threatened to bring the matter before the Executive Committee meeting, but when the meeting was held he failed to put in an appearance, and got the Town Clerk to do his dirty work for him.

Democratic Procedure Demanded.

The working women's representatives on the Committee resented this new attempt of the Mayor to have his way, namely, to have the investigations carried out again by the Ward Committees. It was logically argued that the Ward Committees made their investigations from quite another point of view, that the women's representatives on the Ward Committees were practically the same as on the Women's Employment Committee, and that such a procedure would only be marking time, thus retarding the progress of the scheme. Finally it was decided that the investigations should be carried out by the women in conjunction with the Ward Committees.

Mr. Adamson said he wished to point out that if in Wolverhampton their working-class representatives were to be expected to have a voice in these affairs, the rulings of the various Committees should be loyally and faithfully carried out, if not they might as well disband and leave the Mayor and his clique to carry on the administration in their own way. They depended on the organised workers' movement for their support, and he asked the workers to give them their full support in order that they might fight these matters to the bitter end, and, if necessary, hold public meetings, and show up the powers that be in Wolverhampton. (Loud applause.)

A Vote of Confidence.

Mr. C. W. HILL (Railway Clerks' Association) moved the following resolution:

That this Trades Council approves of the action of its representatives on the various Committees connected with the National Relief Fund, and expresses its confidence in them.

He said that it was time that they, as workers,

should show the Mayor that he could not do just as he liked. The Mayor had always been opposed to Labour and the Trade Union movement, and they could not expect anything else from him for the simple reason that he belonged to the class which was always up against the workers. They wanted a man at the head of municipal affairs who possessed some humanity during this great crisis; in his opinion, the Mayor thought the workers were nothing more than mere chattels. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DIDERIDGE (A.S.E.), who seconded the resolution, said that from what he had heard the Mayor was one of the worst autocrats in Wolverhampton, and it was for them to take the matter up. The women on the Women's Employment Committee had gone round making inquiries, etc., and had submitted them to the proper authority. They had tabulated a scheme and carried it out as far as they possibly could, and just because the work had been done by working women they had been told it was not reliable. The workers had got to fight this matter, and, if necessary, hold meetings on the steps of the Town Hall.

Mr. A. J. WEAVER, J.P. (R.C.A.) in supporting the resolution, remarked that if the Trade Unionists had spent the money they had collected they would have been much better off. (Hear, hear.) The Labour representatives had been treated most ignominiously, and it was a disgrace to know how the working-men representatives had been treated.

Mrs. DIDERIDGE was greatly indignant over the high-handed attitude of the Mayor and the slurs cast on the working women.

Mrs. PALMER backed up the statement which had been made by the other speakers, and added her voice to the protest, and

Mrs. DALE said the women who had carried out the investigation had been insulted by the Mayor. Charges had been made against them, but had not been substantiated. If the investigations were again carried out by the Ward Committees it would probably result in the same work being done over again by the same persons.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Adamson's Figures.

Mrs. ADAMSON, in reply to the vote of confidence, said that so long as they had the confidence of the Labour and Trade Union movement in Wolverhampton they did not care about the opinions of the other side. (Hear, hear.) She thought she had been the special target for the Mayor's sneers. The Mayor had said he did not believe the results of the women's investigations.

What were the facts? Out of 153 cases who had registered with the Women's Employment Sub-Committee there were 83 cases from which they could select the workers required for the proposed workroom. The Mayor and Mayoress took exception to the large number of domestic workers on the list, and contended that these could find situations. Yet, take the evidence of the Labour Exchange figures, there were 215 women and girls on their "live" register, made up as follows: Uninsured—Domestic, etc., under 17 years, 14; over 17 years, 53. Factory, Laundry, etc., under 17 years, 37; over 17 years, 30. Clerks, Shop Assistants, Dressmakers, under 17 years, 25; over 17 years, 30. Insured, under 17 years, 1; over 17 years, 20.

They would notice that there were 72 under the heading of "Domestic." As far as the working women on the Committee were concerned, they were determined to fight, yes, and fight hard for the unemployed women and girls of the town. She thanked the Council on behalf of herself and colleagues for their vote of confidence in them. (Loud applause.)

An Important Resolution.

Mr. J. H. JACKSON (Typographical Association) moved a further resolution. Owing to the lateness of the hour he said he would content himself with moving the following resolution in a few sentences only:

Reports having been received of disrespectful treatment of our representatives at the hands of the Mayor, this Trades Council expresses its determination to advise Trade Unionists to withdraw their contributions from the Prince of Wales's Fund, and form a separate relief committee if better treatment is not meted out in future and the business democratically carried out.

Having gone to the unusual length of passing a vote of confidence in their representatives, he considered a further obligation was consequently incurred. The resolution, he said, was the logical outcome of the lengthy discussion which had ensued. They must strongly resent such attacks, especially when it came from such a pompous source. They had an old bone to pick with "Boss Bantock." (Hear, hear.) This was a deliberate occasion for strict action, seeing they had a distinct grievance. The working classes were incensed at such treatment as had been complained of, which was very typical of Alderman Bantock. (Applause.)

Mr. J. BELLIS (Gasworkers' Union) seconded the motion. He said he had a stronger resolution in his mind, but he would defer to the one just moved.

The resolution was carried unanimously, amid great applause.

[A summary of the constitution and functions of Women's Employment Committees will be found on page 4.]

(Continued on page four.)

WOLVERHAMPTON TRADES COUNCIL MEETING

(Continued from page three.)

OFFICIAL'S INTERFERENCE.

LABOUR EXCHANGE MANAGER AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

By what right and on whose instructions did the Labour Exchange manager interfere with the work of the Women's Employment Committee? is the question being asked by the Trades and Labour Council.

It will be remembered that a sub-committee was recently appointed by the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund in Wolverhampton to consider and present a report on the cases of unemployment among women. The sub-committee duly carried out their investigations, and the secretary (Mrs. Adamson) reported in due course the result of those investigations to the Executive Committee. That report was the result of careful inquiry and much labour by the women composing the committee.

It came as a great surprise, however, when the manager of the Labour Exchange immediately afterwards presented a report on the same work entirely refuting the investigation of the women in such a manner as to reflect on the integrity of the members of the sub-committee.

The authority of the manager of the Labour Exchange to interfere with the sub-committee's work was questioned, but no satisfactory explanation was forthcoming. However, the sub-committee again investigated the cases, and conclusively proved that the figures quoted by the manager of the Labour Exchange were incorrect.

The point at issue is: by what right did the Labour Exchange official prepare a secret report on the work of a committee elected to do this work? It certainly is a new departure, and one which, unless dealt with immediately, will probably grow to the detriment of public work.

Trades Council Action.

The matter was brought before the Trades and Labour Council at their November meeting and they demanded an explanation of the matter, and the secretary wrote to the Labour Exchange manager as follows:

November 26, 1914.
Dear Sir,—At a recent meeting of the Council a report was given by our members upon the Executive of the Town Committee of the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund. Complaint was made that following a statement given by the secretary of the Women's Employment Committee (Mrs. Adamson) at the Executive meeting of the 4th November—a statement which she had been asked to prepare and present—an official of the Labour Exchange immediately presented another set of statistics as against those of the accredited representative. It was pointed out that it was most unusual for a Government official to prepare and present a statement antagonistic to a member who had been asked to report without giving the member formal notice of such contemplated action. The Council desire to ask on whose authority the figures were prepared and given. I shall be obliged if you will kindly send on the information desired.—Yours faithfully,

H. BAGLEY,
Manager of Labour Exchange, Wolverhampton.

Mr. Bagley received the following reply:

Labour Exchange,
Wolverhampton,
November 27, 1914.
Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated the 26th inst., and in connection therewith shall be glad if you can make it convenient to give me a call here some time.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

R. F. STODDARD (Manager),
Secretary, Wolverhampton Trades Council.

On December 1st, the secretary, Mr. Bagley, wrote regretting he could not accept the invitation to call at the Labour Exchange, and for the purpose of eliciting an early reply repeated the request of the 26th.

No reply having been received Mr. Bagley thereupon sent the following:

December 7, 1914.
Dear Sir,—I have been instructed to forward copies of the letters of the 26th ult. and the 1st inst. from this Council to yourself to the Divisional Superintendent of Labour Exchanges for the Midlands (Mr. J. T. Homer) failing a satisfactory reply being immediately forthcoming.—Yours faithfully,

H. BAGLEY,
R. F. Stoddard, Esq.

This elicited the following reply from the Manager of the Labour Exchange:

Labour Exchange,
Wolverhampton,
December 11, 1914.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 26th ult. and the 1st inst. In reply thereto I beg to say that the comments to which your Council refer were made by me as a member of the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund for this district, and in response to an invitation from the chairman of the meeting in question.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

R. F. STODDARD (Manager),
Secretary, Wolverhampton Trades Council.

Unwarrantable Interference.

The Trades Council, to whom the whole of this correspondence was read at their last meeting, considered the final letter an evasion. In the first place, the Labour Exchange manager is not a member of the Executive Committee, only attending in an advisory capacity. In the second they want to know who authorised Mr. Stoddard to make the investigation. The comment may certainly have been made at the request of the chairman of the meeting, but those comments made must have entailed some amount of investigation, for which authority ought to have been given. If no such authority was given, then it was an unwarrantable interference on the part of the Labour Exchange manager with something which did not concern him. If he did receive such authority, then the only conclusion that can be arrived at is that he is endeavouring to shield someone else. The following resolution, moved by Mr. WEAVER, and seconded by Mr.

BELLIS, was unanimously adopted by the Trades Council:

That the secretary write Mr. Stoddard, the manager of the Labour Exchange, expressing our disappointment that the reply he sent does not answer our question.

OTHER TRADES COUNCIL BUSINESS.

Among matters of importance discussed by the Trades Council were the following:

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.—Letter from the Secretary of the Willenhall Joint Labour Council read to the meeting drawing attention to the fact that in many cases Government Contracts, instead of coming direct from the Governmental Departments, came through middlemen, thus costing the Government more, while those who actually turned out the article got less, this procedure vitally affecting the interests of the workers at Willenhall, especially those engaged in the lock and latch industries.—MR. PENZER (Locksmiths), who gave details of the bad wages received by men working on Government Contracts, moved the following resolution: "That the Secretary of the Trades Council communicate with the War Emergency Workers' National Committee asking the Committee to appeal to the Government to send contracts direct."—The resolution was seconded and carried.

SCHOOL CARETAKERS' WAGES.—MR. DRIVER (Caretakers) moved: "That this Trades Council requests its representatives on the Education Committee to press for a living wage for the school caretakers and also reasonable hours." He said that on January 21 last the caretakers sent in an application to the Education Committee for an increase of 20 per cent. in their wages, and following that, they were in communication with the Education Committee from time to time, until, on November 2, they were invited to send a deputation to appear before one of the Education Sub-Committees. Since then, however, nothing further had been heard regarding their case. After entering into details regarding the conditions under which the caretakers worked and the hours that they had to put in, in many cases amounting to considerably over 100 hours per week (man and wife), Mr. Driver said that every new scheme introduced into the schools meant more work for the caretakers, but this increase of duties was not followed by a corresponding increase of wages.—MR. E. J. NEWMAN (Postmen) seconded the resolution, and MR. HARTER, in supporting, said that it was time that they, as Trade Unionists, looked into this matter and brought pressure to bear on the Education Committee with a view to forcing them to recognise the worth of their employees.—The resolution was carried.

POLICE SURVEILLANCE OF SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES.—MRS. ADAMSON (Workers' Union—Women's Section) moved: "That this Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council emphatically protests against the War Office Order instructing the police authorities to put soldiers' and sailors' wives under surveillance, and asks for the immediate withdrawal of same." Mrs. Adamson said it was high time that the organised Trade Union movement and the organised women's movement protested emphatically against this abominable insult to the women of the nation. The order was issued five or six weeks ago, and when Parliament was sitting the question was brought up and they were told it was going to be withdrawn, but now that Parliament had risen, the abominable insult was again issued to all the authorities. It was a very funny thing, she said, that the War Office had refused to receive the representatives of the organised women of the country in regard to the matter; one would have thought that the War Office Authorities would, at least, have extended their courtesy to hear the views of these women. She was very pleased to see, however, that, so far as Wolverhampton was concerned, the order would not be put into operation.—MR. MORETON (Boot and Shoe Operatives) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ALLOWANCES TO DEPENDENTS OF UNMARRIED SOLDIERS.—After a discussion on this subject, the Council, on the motion of Mr. WHITTAKER, passed the following resolution: "That the attention of the War Emergency Workers' National Committee be called to the manner in which the separation allowances are being paid to the dependents of unmarried soldiers."

WHAT THE WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE IS.

In the early days of the war the Cabinet Committee which was appointed to deal with distress and unemployment evidently had the foresight to recognise the necessity of catering for unemployed women in a manner never previously attempted. To begin with, they formed a Government Committee called the "Central Committee on Women's Employment," composed entirely of women, with a strong representation from working women's organisations. The chief task of this Committee was to think out and put into operation schemes of work for women thrown out of employment through the war. With this object in view circulars were drafted and forwarded to the Local Citizens' Committees (Relief Committees) dealing with this particular aspect, and seeking their co-operation in this direction by the appointment of a special sub-committee mainly composed of women, so as to establish local workrooms, etc., where unemployment prevailed.

To emphasise the importance and nature of the general scheme, the following extracts from the official circulars are self-explanatory:

Object of Workrooms.—The object of combining relief with schemes of work is not merely to avoid the dangers which attend relief through doles. It is also to afford an opportunity of maintaining or definitely increasing the efficiency of the girls and women concerned. It is hoped that the Local Committee will make every effort to see that the character of the work and training provided and the management and discipline of the workrooms are such as to leave results of real and permanent benefit.

Suggested Nature of Employment and Occupation.—Training workers in trades in which new openings are now offered for British trade. Training in skilled trade in which there is normally a shortage of labour. Training in domestic economy, especially cooking. Production of useful articles, such as clothing for cases of distress, nightdresses, bed jackets for poor, sick women nursed in hospitals or in their own homes, all kinds of garments, but especially knitted garments for poor babies, cheap cradles, and various accessories which are often lacking but are always desirable in the nursing of the sick

poor and in maternity cases. In the selection of the particular articles to be made in any locality it would be necessary (a) that nothing should be undertaken which would, but for the scheme, be produced and purchased in the ordinary course of business, (b) that articles produced would not be offered for sale, but would be given, through the Local Relief Committee or other approved sources, to persons who had no purchasing power. Altering, making, and mending of workers' own garments.

Character of Work.—It is desired here to emphasise the importance of making the work so far as possible educational in character. Work, for instance, which will tend to develop ingenuity and a certain amount of taste, such as prettily cut children's dresses, etc., is preferable to a merely mechanical production of stock articles; and, especially with the work of teachable women, it is worth while to be content with a smaller number of finished articles if the women can be induced to take a pride in their work.

Rates of Payment and Hours.—The minimum rate of pay should be 3d. per hour. The maximum number of hours worked by any woman in any week should be forty. The work of each woman employed should be so arranged as to give her reasonable time off to look for other work. The supervisors would be skilled instructresses or competent forewomen paid at the market rate per hour for similar work. The minimum number for which a workroom should be opened to be forty.

Girls under 16.—Girls under 16 should not be employed at all in workrooms. They should be dealt with separately in schools or training centres, and a maintenance allowance of 4s. per week can be given.

Girls between 16 and 18.—Where these girls are already skilled workers in a recognised trade, and have previously earned more than 3d. per hour, they may be treated as adults and employed at the rates described above. But in other cases they should be given a maintenance allowance and not wages. This allowance should ordinarily be at the rate of 1s. a day of six hours. (Instruction and training can be given to these girls.)

Finance.—Where schemes of employment are thus sanctioned and approved by the Central Committee on Women's Employment, the grants are provided from "The Queen's Work for Women Fund," which is a part of the National Relief Fund, but is specially earmarked for schemes of employment for women.

From a national point of view it will be seen that full preparation has been made to tackle this problem of unemployment, which, serious as it may apply to men, is even a greater hardship to the working woman or girl.

The facilities offered to Local Relief Committees are so exceptional, and with every assistance and help necessary there can be no excuse for any Local Authority that refuses to deal with this question.

SWEATING WOMEN WORKERS.

How Some Employers are Making Profits During the War.

I have already, on several occasions, protested against the spurious sort of patriotism that gives a moderately large sum to the Prince of Wales, the Queen Mary, or other public funds, and takes immoderately large sums from the wages of employees. We could all figure in the subscription lists if we had servants to filch from, or if we did not scruple to rob someone of 5s. in order to give 2s. 6d. to someone else.

There is the Jew, with a dressmaking business in the West End of London, who is making his women employees work full time, and is only paying two-thirds salary.

A well-known firm of typewriters have dismissed more than half their staff, are working those who remain full time, and have reduced wages 20 per cent. all round.

One oil company promoter has reduced the wages of his women clerks 50 per cent. whilst working them full time.

A suburban draper sent notice of dismissal to one of his young lady assistants whilst she was on holiday, and when she protested offered to allow her to remain at her post doing full duty at a salary of £10 per year, instead of her former £25. So peculiar is this man's point of view that he considers this an act of charity!

I investigated many more cases, all showing a contemptible greed and a total disregard for the sufferings of the women who are being treated in so unconscionable a manner.

It is time to make it perfectly plain to such employers that to create poverty on a large scale and relieve it on a small one is utterly discreditable and is so regarded by the general public, not one of whom will be deceived by the names appearing in the various subscription lists.—*Mary Bull.*

NO MAFFICKING NOW.

Hitherto we have been content to go mafficking when Tommy won something for us, but if he got killed we haven't thought much of his widow and his children. They have been left to hide their sorrow in the darkness of poverty. It is true there has been a small pension granted in recent years, and it is also true that there have been voluntary funds administered on charitable lines. But voluntary funds cannot meet requirements, and, moreover, voluntary funds are generally doled out by officious and self-satisfied people of the "Stiggins" type, who make themselves so offensive that many poor folk would rather go without help than have it from their hands.—*GEORGE N. BARNES, M.P.*

ADVICE TO "SLACKERS,"

MR. J. R. CLYNES ON "ARE MEN HELPING EACH OTHER?"

To members of his own Union, Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., chairman of the Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union, has addressed a few very pertinent reflections on the first duty of Trade Unionists during war time. The admonitions are of point for members of all such organisations.

Answering his own query, "Are men helping each other?" Mr. Clynes says that "mostly they are, but some are only helping themselves to things that other men have fought and paid for."

"We are thinking," he continues, "of some good men who are thoughtlessly inflicting a blow upon the Union which has helped them in the past, and though they may not know it they are striking a blow at themselves for the future! They are falling behind with their Trade Union contributions because, owing to the war, they say they have to pay for other things and help a number of deserving objects."

"Now, there is no object more deserving of support than the Workmen's Trade Union. In time of need he turns first to his Union and expects the aid of its funds and the service of its officials if anything goes wrong. Something may go wrong at any moment. Dispute, disability, wage, or working conditions may at any hour require the Union to intervene on behalf of workmen."

"The Union is taking its part with all Labour bodies in pressing forward every day the just claims of poor people for better treatment with respect to war relief. It is pressing for work for the unemployed, and for higher rates of pay for emergency labour on war materials. It has secured increases and allowances for men who have had to be drafted to other places."

"As the Union is doing all these things it must now say to all men who are in work that this is just the time when they ought not to hamper the Society and reduce their payments. Benefits can only be paid if those who are in work remain true to their duty and enable us to meet members' claims when they are made."

THE NON-UNIONIST.

That the non-unionist is an incubus, a modern "Old Man of the Sea," goes without saying. We have proved this in a score of fights; that he is a parasite who, taking all and giving nothing, is living on the blood and energy of his fellows is patent to the meanest intelligence. To the unionist he is a cancer, a deadly growth, a constant menace to our industrial health, which must be eliminated by the best means at our disposal if we desire to become the power our industrial forefathers intended we should be and our modern intelligence indicates to us we can be.

In our efforts to eliminate this unhealthy growth it is necessary that we should bring to bear upon the question of the best method not only the highest form of enthusiasm, but also the necessary amount of intelligence. Enthusiasm never cured cancer yet, but enthusiasm and intelligence combined have gone a long way in that direction. Enthusiasm is necessary, it is also highly important; it enables us to overcome initial difficulties; it springs from hope; it impels us forward, but there are always obstacles in the way of the enthusiast which enthusiasm alone cannot surmount nor physical force overcome. Enthusiasm carries us over obstacles of surmountable character, but intelligence can always assist us in removing from our path the obstacles that are insurmountable, but whether they are difficulties to surmount, or obstacles to remove in the way of industrial emancipation, enthusiasm must impel and intelligence direct our efforts if they are to culminate in successful accomplishment.—*JAMES E. MULLINS (in A.S.E. Monthly Journal).*

WAR AND SANITY.

There is no question that the war is having a demoralising effect upon our people. It is more nerves than anything else. Some, who have been indulging too freely in Bernhardt books and newspaper stories, are to all intents and purposes insane. They are possessed of war madness. They see red everywhere. They talk about conscription. They protest against anything in the nature of healthy recreation—especially football. They morbidly denounce everything which is likely to keep the people normal and wholesome-minded. They see spies and Zeppelins and ravaging "Huns" very much in the way a victim of delirium tremens sees snakes. Surely it is possible to realise the seriousness of the struggle without working ourselves into a state of hysteria. Let us be sensible about things. Great Britain is practically acting as the arsenal—the supply department—of the Allied armies. Thousands of British workers are just as usefully doing their duty by working as they would be fighting in the trenches. The armies of France, Belgium, Russia, Serbia, as well as of England, have to be supplied with boots, clothing, food, and countless other things, and it is the workers of this country who are doing this. Why should they be denied recreation? Why should they not play a game of football, or watch a game, if they want to? It injures no one, and it helps to keep them fit for their work. Let us try to keep normal in spite of the war.

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