

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

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LABOUR'S LEAD.

TRADES COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

PATRIOTIC EXAMPLE.

The special meeting of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council, held on the 31st ult., was undoubtedly the most important in the history of the Council.

The meeting fully realised the unprecedented position now facing Labour and the Nation as a whole, and rose to the occasion in a memorable manner. Clear and decisive resolutions were carried on almost every question involved, and these will give a definite lead to all concerned.

It was no easy matter to deal with the attitude to be taken up by Labour in regard to the needs of the Army, but the question was faced boldly and discussed from all points of view upon the following resolution:

That, having given full consideration to the decision of the National Labour Party to join in a campaign to strengthen the British Army, this Trades Council hereby records its approval of that decision, and agrees to assist in carrying it into effect. It further agrees to place the Labour Assembly Rooms at the disposal of the organisers of the National Campaign, and urges all young men who are free from family responsibilities to give earnest consideration to the national appeal for their services.

Mr. A. G. Walkden (prospective Labour candidate for Wolverhampton West) drew attention to the decision of the National Labour Party agreeing to join in a campaign to strengthen the Army and recommending affiliated bodies to give all possible local support. Mr. Walkden stated that information had reached the Party during the previous week which convinced them of the absolute necessity of the course adopted. They all deplored the war and were entitled to independent opinions regarding the various causes that might have contributed towards bringing it about, but the fact they had to face was that they had the war before them and were bound to be affected by its results. What Robert Blatchford had written on the matter for years past was coming true, and it was of the utmost importance that the aggressive onslaught of the German military caste should be turned back and the Napoleonic ambitions of the Kaiser destroyed for ever.

After considerable discussion the resolution was carried. The action of the Trades Council in offering the Labour Assembly Rooms for the purposes of the National Campaign cannot be too strongly commended. They have indeed shown themselves patriots in the truest sense of the word.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Labour Party Lead the Way to Avoid Political Strife.

The question of the municipal elections in November was considered, and here again the Trades Council were to the fore in a movement which will entail a great sacrifice. There was no doubt that the active propaganda of the Party, the consistent advocacy of Housing and Town Planning, Direct Labour, School Clinics, Feeding of School Children, and the many other proposals which the Labour Party have put forward had won them general support, and there was every prospect that in normal times they would have achieved a great victory at the polls. Notwithstanding that active preparations had been made to contest many seats, the Trades Council felt that no matter what the loss may be they could not bring political contests on the public at an anxious time like the present. Therefore they passed the following resolution:

That in view of the present exceptional state of national affairs and the desirability of all parties and classes uniting for the supreme purpose of dealing with all emergencies arising from the war, this Trades Council is strongly of opinion that it would be inadvisable for time, effort, and money to be spent at this juncture in municipal elections, and suggests to the Executive of the local Labour Representation Committee that, in spite of the fact that it has arrangements in hand for contesting several wards, it should invite the other political parties to come to an agreement with the L.R.C. to avoid contests, on the understanding that sitting members of the Town Council who are due to retire this autumn be returned without opposition in each case.

The Executive Committee of the Labour Representation Committee immediately met and accepted the suggestion of the Trades Council, and steps have been taken to come to an agreement with other parties to avoid contests.

TRADE UNIONS AND THE WAR.

A Warning to the Workers to Stand by Their Organisations.

"What we have we hold!" was the keynote of the discussion on another subject of importance to all trade unionists. The resolution was as follows:

That this Trades Council, recognising the exceptional difficulties that are likely to be met with by all Trade Unions during the period of the war, urges the members to maintain their support of their respective Unions, and to do everything possible to strengthen their organisations in view of the necessity of upholding the Trade Union standards of hours and wages which would otherwise be liable to become impaired during the time

that large numbers of workers are unemployed. Further, this Council urges all Unions to use every endeavour to prevent the working of overtime in occupations that have members unemployed; also to arrange, where necessary, for work to be shared round on the part-time principle, in order to minimise total unemployment.

Instances were quoted where employers during the war had requested men to work overtime at ordinary rates of pay, and even where employers had been asked to accept a reduction in wages.

There is no doubt that in consequence of the enormous strain on the resources of the trade unions consequent on the vast amount of unemployment benefit which is being paid out at the present time there is a grave danger of them being seriously weakened. Therefore it behoves every trade unionist to stand by his union and not give anything away in a moment of panic. By relinquishing trade union principles they are endangering their position for all time.

Far better is it that some amicable arrangement as to sharing work should be come to than accepting reductions in wages or causing men to be discharged. The resolution was carried unanimously.

OTHER MATTERS.

The Citizens Committee—Unemployment Caused by Voluntary Workers—Feeding of School Children.

Other important resolutions were carried, the significance of which will be apparent.

In regard to the Citizens' Committee, surprising accounts were given of shameful attempts to debar Labour from representation. The resolution was as under:

That this meeting of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council emphatically protests against the persistent attempts of the Local Authorities to exclude working men and women from the Citizens' Committee, and particularly from its Executive; regards the proportion of eighteen out of one hundred and forty-four of its Executive as being utterly inadequate, and instructs the secretary to take the matter up further with the Local Government Board. The meeting further expresses its strong opinion that a continuance of the exclusion of which the Trades Council has repeatedly complained will undoubtedly militate against the success of the important work to be undertaken by the Citizens' Committee.

Voluntary Workers and Unemployment.

The futility of well-to-do ladies attempting to relieve distress by doing work which might profitably be undertaken by women thrown out of work was pointed out. Doing this class of work only results in further unemployment, and everyone will agree with the resolution carried by the Trades Council:

That this Trades Council views with apprehension the proposal that voluntary helpers from the well-to-do classes should undertake work that might otherwise be carried out by unemployed tailoresses, seamstresses, laundresses, and others (including the wives of men now serving with the colours), and urges that such workers should be engaged by the Public Committees with the view of minimising unemployment. Further, that ladies who wish to help towards mitigating distress caused by the war should assist in the house-to-house visitation work that needs to be undertaken by the various Ward Relief Committees.

Feeding of School Children.

The remaining item of business was the feeding of school children. Although the Education Committee have decided to put the Act into operation "when necessary," anyone who takes the trouble to inquire for himself can come to no other conclusion that the time is ripe for the adoption of the Act, as suggested by the Council's resolution:

That this meeting of the Trades and Labour Council calls upon the Local Education Committee to put the Amended Act for the Feeding of School Children into operation immediately in view of the acute necessities of the little ones whose fathers have responded to the call to the colours, or have been thrown out of employment in consequence of the war.

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When the crisis is over we hope the object lesson our Society has given to this town and district will stimulate all workers to a sense of their own personal benefit in becoming members. Our benefits to workers are incalculable, both in time of War and Peace.

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THE
Wolverhampton Worker.

SEPTEMBER, 1914.

LABOUR AND THE WAR.

Since our last issue was sent to press there has burst over Europe an unprecedented war-storm that overshadows all other human activities and compels the recognition of new responsibilities and the undertaking of tasks for which previously there appeared to be no real necessity. Forty days ago the civilised world was going on with its work in the ordinary way, and we, in common with other reformers in all lands, were striving for the peaceful realisation of our aims and ideals. Our fellow-workers in the German Labour Movement were hoping that, in due time, by peaceful political action, they would be able to overthrow the system of Conscriptionist Militarism and Imperialism which has for so many years impeded the progress of the workers and crushed them with its tremendous burden of armaments. They were making good headway and gathering support from all classes of the people, in spite of opposition and persecution. The Kaiser and his satellites bitterly disliked the movement, and, for the unpardonable offence of *lèse majesté*, imprisoned many a progressive editor for the most moderately-expressed sentiments that were deemed to be unfavourable to the ideals of the Junker clique and their Imperial aggressiveness. Had they been given sufficient time, the leaders of the German Labour Movement would undoubtedly have secured enough public support to have enabled them to carry out reforms that would have changed the German system of government, with its autocratic bureaucracy, to a democratic system similar to our own. But the Kaiser, by recklessly throwing all Europe into war, has created a situation that not only destroys for the time being all prospect of social and political reform in Germany, but compels the whole of the people of the nations with whom he is at war to concentrate their energies with united determination to overthrow him and his ambitious and brutal system of militarism for ever. Until this is accomplished the International Labour and Peace Movement will be unable to act effectively, and we entirely agree with the view that, so far as England is concerned, this is a War for Freedom in its highest sense.

THE CRISIS.

By QUI VIVE.

I have just been reading the opening chapters of a book written by two French writers descriptive of the French people just about a hundred years ago. To read this little book makes one feel inexplicably sad, and yet, at times, unutterably glad. For it portrays so clearly the glorious possibilities of a nation at peace, and yet again, the awful consequences, the terrible carnage, the absolute desolation of a nation at war. Just two extracts will suffice:

People had suffered so much misery for years and years—they had so many times feared being taken by the conscription and never coming back again—they were so tired of all these battles, and all that glory, of these captured cannon, and the singing of Te Deum for victories, that the universal wish was to live in peace. . . . the workmen, the peasants, and the citizens in a mass, cried, 'Long live peace!' . . . peace had come back. Nobody thought of wishing for war then; . . . people knew that a saw or a plane did better work than a cannon; every-one knew how many tears and how much labour it costs to repair in ten years the mischief the bombshells can do in two minutes.

That was in 1814, and then the other side:

Then—

Attention! receive cavalry! and almost immediately we saw a mass of red dragoons on grey horses sweeping along like the wind; all our men who had straggled were sabred without mercy. . . . This was one of the most terrible moments of my life. . . . their strokes came down like lightning. . . . fortunately for me, Sergeant Rabot was next, and he it was who received the horrible deluge of blows. . . . His blood fell upon me like rain. At last he sank down. I had still my gun loaded, and seeing one of the dragoons marking me from afar, and leaning forward to make a thrust at me, I shot him down point blank. . . . What a terrible thing is a battle! . . . Within ten minutes seven hundred dragoons were disabled; . . . but three thousand of our men lay stretched in the valley. . . . One would have thought that the lives of men were of no value.

—And now.

Such was the state of affairs on the Continent in 1815. Such, unhappily, is the sad state of affairs on the Continent at the present time. Except that man has become more devilish in taxing his ingenuity to devise machines for the destruction of his fellow creatures. I wonder what the nations of Europe will be doing a hundred years hence—in the year of grace, 2,015! And just what they will be doing very largely depends upon the future attitude of the peoples of the earth towards war. When the democracies are able to recognise that they "are the real sinews of war"; when they are sufficiently educated to break the power of the cliques that engineer war for their own sordid ends, and for the lust of power, then, and not until then, will the possibilities of the awful hellish carnage and butchery be swept away.

In the present case, for instance, the democratic countries—France and England—did not want war, yet the "mailed fist of swaggering German Jingoism" has thrown Europe into a positive ferment, presenting a veritable inferno.

The Cost.

But England is at war and it behoves every true-born Briton to do his level best, whatever that term may imply, to make the effects of the war fall just as lightly as possible upon all concerned. That this war has, and will continue to affect our life as a nation, from the richest to the poorest, from the wealthiest peer to the poorest peasant, is all too apparent. We shall have to pay dearly, not only in flesh and blood, and nerve and muscle and sinew on the battlefield, but in toil and sacrifice and hardship here at home. Therefore, the true spirit of brotherhood ought to prevail. The problem which presents itself to the people at the present moment is how to purchase the necessaries of life at almost prohibitive prices, with a seriously depleted purse.

The suggestion of utilising every available inch of spare ground for the cultivation of vegetables, etc., cannot be too strongly emphasised. And here again both the Government and municipal authorities might come to the aid of those who are unfortunately thrown out of employment, by providing suitable plots of ground, and assisting those desirous of cultivating the

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By the CHIEL.

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

Since I last penned my notes a startling change has come over affairs. No longer do we hear the clash of party strife, no longer the bickerings of the politicians, but instead we see on all hands a united people, with one common object, one topic of conversation, and one appeal. "Adversity maketh strange bedfellows," it is said, and one might add that a common danger has the same effect. The terrible calamity which has befallen Europe has banished for the time being all differences of opinion, and to-day we find Conservatives, Liberals, Labour men, and Socialists occupying one common platform, with the object of calling upon our population to respond to the nation's call.

My Position.

I have often had to write and speak against war; all my energies in the past have been in the direction of international peace. I have denounced armaments, and all that has to do with militarism, and to-day my task is doubly hard. Though still an advocate of international peace and disarmament, I am compelled to join in the appeal to the young men of our country to take their places in the ranks of those who have gone out to resist the menace of German militarism. In doing so I want to keep clear of anything that savours of flamboyant Imperialism. To me the words "British Empire" have no other meaning than that it represents the democratic civilisation for which our forefathers fought in other spheres than on the battlefield. This British civilisation and the civilisation of South-Western Europe is menaced by the ever-greedy maw of despotism, represented by the Kaiser and the German military autocracy, and because I think of what might happen if the Kaiser were to be allowed to ride roughshod over the face of Europe I join with others in the hope that this war might be fought to a successful conclusion by the Allies, and the power of military despotism in Germany killed for ever.

Not the German People.

I realise that we are not fighting the German people. The unfortunate fact is that the workers of Germany have never had the power to overthrow the War Party. The democratic franchise has never existed in Germany, and the worker has been kept under the heel of the tyrants. He is merely a pawn in the militarists' game. The pity of it is that in the nation's quarrels it is always the worker who sheds his blood, always the worker who suffers, and always the worker who pays. But the country is at war—and is settling the differences in the only way that has been recognised, or that can now be applied. Some day—perhaps when this war is concluded—a saner system will manifest itself. It will then be the duty of the working class to say they will have no more of the secret diplomacy which breeds these terrible conflicts—no more of the making of instruments of destruction for private profit; that they who shed their blood to settle the nation's quarrels shall know what is going on and what they are committed to, and that if it is necessary for the nation to be armed, then the nation only, and not the profiteers shall control the manufacture of armaments.

South Staffordshire.

But the war is upon us. There is no time now to inquire into causes; the country is menaced by a danger it has never before had to face. Realising this I join myself with those who are appealing for men to volunteer and save the nation from the calamity which threatens it. I shall not appeal in vain. Already it is a source of pride that South Staffordshire has completed the first battalion of the new army called for by Lord Kitchener. More men are needed, and I confidently believe that they will come along.

Two Alternatives.

I cannot too strongly impress upon my readers the urgency of the situation. The working class are face to face with two alternatives; the one, of course, is to volunteer, the other to be compelled to join the Colours. The Capitalist Press of the country is clamouring for conscription, and there is no doubt that unless recruiting goes on faster than at present we shall have it imposed upon us. Once we allow that to come about we shall never get rid of it. I believe that voluntary enlistment is for the length of the war or three years—that is to say that if the war lasts only a few weeks or months the volunteer will be enabled to return to civilian life, or at the end of three years, if the war lasts over that period.

Information for Wives.

The following extracts from Lord Kitchener's Appeal will be of interest to wives of volunteers:

"Married men who join for the duration of the war are entitled, from the day of their attestation, to separation allowance for their wives and children over and above their pay, at the following rates:

For the wife, 1s. 1d. a day or 7s. 7d. a week.

For each child, 2d. a day or 1s. 2d. a week.

Those living in the London Postal Area are allowed 3s. 6d. a week extra.

All married soldiers who are eligible for separation allowance are, when serving abroad, obliged to allot at least 3s. 6d. a week out of their pay to their wives, and more if they have children, and can, of course, allot still more.

Thus, if a man has a wife and three children, they will get a separation allowance of 11s. 1d. a week, or 14s. 7d. in London. If he allots them 9s. a day or 5s. 3d. a week, they will have 16s. 4d. altogether (19s. 10d. in London) and will, of course, be free of the expense of keeping him.

"The widows of those who die on active service will receive, subject to certain qualifications, pensions at various rates from 5s. to 10s. a

JOTTINGS.

I am pleased to record the fact that Master William Adamson, son of Mr. W. M. Adamson and Mrs. Adamson, so well known in the Trade Union and Labour movement, has taken a scholarship under the Wolverhampton Education Committee. The scholarship is tenable for four years at the Wolverhampton Grammar School.

A newsboy was challenged the other Sunday for demanding a penny, instead of the ordinary price (ha'penny), for a special edition.

"What!" he exclaimed. "Yo' a 'trade-unyist'? If y'are, don't yo' charge double fer Sunday?"

Verily, what's good for the—

It is so very rarely I find any use for the soldier that I think I ought to record the fact right here that during a brief holiday, just prior to the commencement of the war, I realised the value of Tommy Atkins when suddenly finding myself suspended in an unusual and perilous position.

I was indulging in a little climbing of the cliffs at Folkestone, quite alone, unguided, and without having received any forewarning as to possible danger, and my exploits had so far proved highly successful until, approaching a particularly deceptive ledge, I became stranded in such a position as to be unable to move either to the left or right, back or front, with safety.

Having put a cheerful courage on I signalled towards the beach, and succeeded from my high altitude in attracting a fellow-creature who was to be congratulated upon not being so "high in the world."

The cry for help went forth. Coastguardsmen were not at hand, so it was decided by the people who had gathered below to seek the soldiers stationed some distance away.

In time two of the kharki men arrived with a stout rope, and it having been lowered dexterously into my hands I was bidden to descend with face towards the cliff.

I should probably have met with an untimely end but for this prompt action.

What a dreadful thing it is, however, that so vast a body of men as that which forms our Army should be usually more concerned about destroying life than anything else—to kill is their grim calling!

I stated in this column last month, when referring to the subject of holidays, that some of the Trade Unions insist upon a week's respite, with pay, once a year.

A railway clerk has since reminded me that the Railway Clerks' Association, of which Mr. Walkden is the admirable general secretary, has helped to secure the condition that all workers on the railways receive at least a fortnight, with full pay, every year.

Our doughty Labour champion, I know, is anxious that this principle should be extended to all other occupations, and will give his whole-hearted support in this direction in the future, both inside and outside of Parliament.

When a razor has seen long service and no longer presents a keen edge it is a good plan to put it away for a few weeks and it will be found the edge will come back of its own accord.

While, probably, many of my readers are fully acquainted with this practice, I repeat it because I imagine it contains a moral.

What a robust people we might be if we would so legislate as to make it possible for all workers to "lay ourselves on the shelf occasionally and renew our edges!" as Mark Twain observes.

Travelling via London to Folkestone, I took full advantage of my ticket to spend a few days in the Metropolis. One of the afternoons I visited the House of Commons, and dropped across Mr. Walkden "scouting" in the lobbies.

Coming into contact with him I soon gained sufficient knowledge, from conversation and observation, to satisfy myself of the fact that our prospective Labour M.P. for the West Division knows well, in advance, "the ropes" of Parliamentary procedure of affairs.

It is not generally known that the Railway Clerks' Association, as represented by Mr. Walkden, his Executive, and their legal adviser, supplied the material whereby the Labour Party were recently instrumental in delaying the passage of certain Bills promoted by railway companies seeking further powers until a number of grievances affecting men in their employ were remedied, which move created a sensation in the House.

Yet this is but a gentle foretaste of greater things that may be expected when Mr. Walkden is returned to strive on our behalf within "the city walls."

C. VERE.

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THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

AN APPEAL TO THE WORKERS TO DO THEIR PART.

THE DUTY OF THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

Not the least among the horrors of war are the terrible effects on those at home. The sudden calling away of the breadwinner has plunged many a family into starvation, and at the time of writing we now know that there are many widows who need comfort and sustenance, many children who are fatherless, and surely it is our duty to see that they do not want.

The stoppage of trade, inevitable in a world-wide conflict, caused by the cutting off of supplies, has resulted in an enormous amount of unemployment. Many men are now crowding the streets, vainly applying at the Labour Exchanges for work which is not to be had. These are not all men who are eligible for active service; many of them are elderly men who have families dependent on them, and the prospect before them and theirs is scarcely less terrible than that of the sorrowing wives and children whose husbands and fathers have so suddenly been taken away.

Government Arrangements.

Plainly, therefore, is the duty of those who are capable of assisting pointed out. The Government have led the way with admirable energy in the preliminary arrangements for dealing with the unemployment and distress consequent upon the war, and have laid down emphatically the policy of preventing, as far as possible, the occurrence of unemployment, rather than merely waiting until distress occurs and then relieving it. For instance, Parliament has voted four million pounds for the express purpose of increasing employment in the building trades by schemes of housing in urban and rural districts, and Mr. Asquith has signified that the hundred millions voted for war expenditure includes sums destined to set going works that will give remunerative employment to those who would otherwise be thrown out of work.

A hierarchy of committees has been established, presided over by a Cabinet Committee, with sub-committees dealing respectively with London, women's employment, statistics, housing in town and country respectively, food supply, and other cognate questions. The Local Authorities throughout the length and breadth of the land have been ordered to form Local Citizens' Committees, entrusted primarily with the task of preventing unemployment within their areas and secondarily of relieving, without the stigma of pauperism, those who cannot be otherwise maintained.

A Complaint.

In common with all other localities a Citizens' Committee has been formed in Wolverhampton. While we wish to do all we possibly can to help to alleviate the distress prevalent in the town, we have to make one complaint. The circular issued by the Local Government Board and the Mayors of Boroughs, and Chairmen of County and District Councils, establishing the Local Citizens' Committee, expressly provided that representatives from Trade Union and women's organisations should be asked to join the committee.

This the Wolverhampton Trades Council and the various working women's associations in the town were quite prepared and anxious to do. But we regret that those responsible for the formation of the Citizens' Committee in Wolverhampton evidently did not show any desire to avail themselves of that assistance, as in addition to the three Labour town councillors, the only other representatives of Labour included were the President and Secretary of the Trades Council, who were asked to join the committee.

A spirited protest was made, with the result that the secretaries of the four women's organisations—the Women's Labour League, the Workers' Union (women's section), the Co-operative Guild, and the Railway Women's Guild—were added.

Mr. Walkden's Message.

Later on the Trades Council met and considered the matter, when it was reported that Mr. A. G. Walkden had been approached on the matter. Mr. Walkden had communicated with the Labour members on the National Committee, and in the following telegram to the Trades Council he said:

Labour Party leaders on National Committee assure me Citizens' Committee arrangements nothing like so limited or rigid as Town Clerk represents. List not final, may be extended, and unless Labour is adequately represented and arrangements made in spirit of Local Government Board instructions grants from national funds will probably be withheld, as at Leeds.

A resolution was carried protesting against inadequate representation of Labour. The result has been that the Ward Committees have been extended, and, with the three Labour councillors and one Labour member of the Board of Guardians, there are now 18 working-class representatives on the Citizens' Committee.

We do not profess to be satisfied with this representation. Indeed a further protest is being made to the Local Government Board. A proportion of 18 on a committee of 144 is, we consider, quite inadequate to express the views of the workers, and when it is pointed out that there is only one representative on the Executive Committee, which consists of 26 members, the disparity is still more apparent. Efforts were made to include a working woman on the Executive Committee, but were unsuccessful. The value of a working

woman's advice on a committee which will deal largely with the necessities of working women cannot be over estimated, and we regret that the Citizens' Committee could not see their way clear to include such a representative. We maintain that the needs of the working class are best known by the working class, and the Citizens' Committee certainly will suffer in its work by the smallness of working-class representation.

However, be that as it may, we hope the Trade Unionists of the town will do their level best in assisting the Citizens' Committee to meet the distress as it arises. Because we have not the representation we should have liked that is no reason why the work of the committee should be impeded. For the sake of the sufferers from this terrible struggle it is the duty of all who are able to offer their services as workers to the Ward Committees. The work to be done will concern our class, and the right method to adopt is to get all possible assistance to ensure that the relief funds are directed to the proper quarters. We therefore ask all Trade Unionists and Labour men and women to give in their names to the secretary of the wards they desire to work in, or to the Labour representatives on the Ward Committees. The following are the names of the Labour representatives and the Ward Committees on which they are placed:

Labour Men on Ward Committees.

- ST. PETER'S WARD.
Mr. C. HARPER, 234, Waterloo Road.
- ST. MATTHEW'S WARD.
Councillor W. SHARROCKS, 16, Francis Street;
Mr. G. HOLMES, Bilston Road.
- ST. MARY'S WARD.
Mr. E. FAULKNER, 51, Worcester Street.
- DUNSTALL WARD.
Miss DYKE, 119, Cannock Road;
Mr. ALAN DAVIES, 74, Craddock Street.
- MERRIDALE WARD.
Mr. RANDLE EVANS, Merridale Street West.
- ST. MARK'S WARD.
Mr. E. J. NEWMAN, 31, Clarendon Street.
- BLAKENHALL WARD.
Councillor T. FROST, 62, Merridale Road;
Mr. T. JONES, J.P., Dudley Road;
Mrs. A. DIDERIDGE, 163, Park Street, South;
Mrs. CALLEAR, Upper Villiers Street.
- GRAISELEY WARD.
Mr. J. WHITTAKER, J.P., Owen Road;
Mr. E. EVANS, Owen Road;
Mrs. ADAMSON, 99, Joffcock Road;
H. BAGLEY, 83, Burleigh Road.
- ST. GEORGE'S WARD.
Mrs. BRINDLEY, 30, Powlett Street;
Councillor BENT, 18, Sherwood Street.

What the Citizens' Committee Must Do.

The powers of the Citizens' Committee are extensive. While much good may be done by monetary grants, it should be generally known that this is not the "only work for which the committees are formed." The Citizens' Committee are empowered and, indeed, required to propose schemes for increasing public employment, and the workers must see that the first schemes sent forward for approval are schemes for increasing public employment and not for the giving of doles in money or food. Every Local Authority within the Committee's area ought to be stimulated to increase the number of its employees. New schemes for clearing slums, building houses, planting waste places, erecting new schools, renewing the furniture of existing schools, and clothing the school children ought to be initiated everywhere. The Local Health Committee ought at once to be pressed to put in operation the admirable schemes suggested by the Local Government Board of providing for the needs of women, more especially of pregnant women or women with young children. School feeding ought (as the Board of Education urges) to be extended to children under and over school age, and a municipal baby clinic and milk depot established.

Relief Works Not Wanted.

If we have to come to relief of unemployed men and women, we ought to avoid the nonsensical pretence of "relief works," and set the unemployed always to work of an educational character, having its utility not in the production of material commodities, which is always hopelessly costly, but in the gain to the man or woman in training and new accomplishments.

In Wolverhampton there are many schemes which might be proceeded with to provide profitable employment for those thrown out of work. The Council have recently adopted a Housing scheme which, in view of the urgency of the housing problem in the town, might be extended and more houses built than originally decided upon, the erection of firemen's dwellings, the laying of new tramway tracks, the making of new roads—all these are desirable and necessary. It is clear, therefore, that the Labour representatives on the Committee must insist that the wage-earners who will otherwise be thrown out of work on account of the war are provided with regular employment out of the money voted by Parliament. We must not let the country "slither down" to the universal soup kitchen! It is useless for Lord Kitchener to think that he can repel the invader if the working class is starving behind his line of troops.

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A BENEFICENT ACT.

LANDLORDS MAY NOT DISTRAIN FOR ARREARS OF RENT

DURING WAR TIME.

Amongst the various Special Acts of Parliament recently carried to assist the people in meeting difficulties caused by the war is one which suspends the power of a landlord to levy distraint for arrears of rent; the power to seize furniture under a hire-purchase agreement, and the power to forfeit any policy of insurance.

Hitherto these powers have been exercisable in virtue of contracts entered into. Under the Act they can only be exercised on application to and by special permission of a Court of Law, and a landlord or other creditor attempting distraint or forfeiture without that permission will be acting illegally.

The Act is entitled the "Courts (Emergency Powers) Act," and is wide in its scope. It provides that: No person shall proceed to execution or otherwise to the enforcement of any judgment or order of any Court for the payment or recovery of a sum of money except on an application for the purpose to that Court, or levy and distress, take, resume, or enter into possession of any property, foreclose, realise any security, forfeit any deposit, or take any other measures for the purpose of enforcing the payment or recovery of any sum of money, except on an application for the purpose to the High Court, or, alternatively, to the County Court.

The cases in which the courts are empowered to refuse an application by a landlord or other creditor are those in which the person liable proves that he or she is unable, immediately, to make the payment by reason of circumstances attributable directly or indirectly to the present war.

THE GARDEN IN WAR TIME.

Timely Hints which may help to Solve the Food Problem.

With the prospect of a shortage of food if the war continues any considerable time, those people who possess a strip of garden, or can rent a piece of ground, would be well advised to cultivate it, by growing such vegetables as the season will permit, and thereby lessen, to some extent, the anxieties as to food supply. In this connection the following hints may be useful:—

Plant leeks and all kinds of cabbages. Sow cabbages, spinach, lettuce, endive, radishes, mustard and cress, onions, and turnips, or, preferably, garden swedes. Swedes are better flavoured than turnips, and very much hardier. As they may remain in the ground until they are wanted, the storage difficulty is avoided.

It is, of course, rather late for carrots, but with favourable weather they may grow large enough to use, especially if they can be covered with the handlights or cloches which are now so common in gardens.

Lift onions as soon as the tops wither, and beet and early-sown carrots before they are likely to be injured by frost. Parsnips may remain in the ground.

Marrows, if allowed to ripen until they are quite yellow and firm, will keep all through the winter, and French and runner beans will remain fresh for a considerable time if they are placed with the ends of the stalks in water. If it is desired to preserve them for use later in the year, they should be packed in jars with alternate layers of salt.

The following list has been drawn up by the Royal Horticultural Society as suitable for present sowing, and we commend it to our readers:

Turnips.—Red Globe and Green Globe (these will be useful both for roots and tops).
Carrots.—Shorthorn, Intermediate, and Early Market.

Beetroot.—Egyptian turnip rooted and Red Globe.

Onion.—Tripoli varieties, Giant Rocca, and White Italian.

Cabbage.—Offenham, Enfield Market, Ellam's Early Dwarf, and Flower of Spring.

Any surplus plants of broccoli, savoys, kale, or other green crops that may be in the seed bed should be planted out at once, and although they may not produce perfect crops, they will at least provide plenty of useful food.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to lack of space we are compelled to hold over various regular features.

RAILWAY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

226 BRANCHES. 30,000 MEMBERS.

Better Salaries, Sunday Pay, and other Improved Conditions secured on all Railways. Further Betterment Necessary, and can be obtained by United Action. JOIN NOW.

Local Secretary, J. FARMER, 186, Merridale Street, West, Wolverhampton.

"A HARD STRUGGLE."

MR. A. G. WALKDEN'S ADVICE TO TRADE UNIONISTS.

In a circular issued to branch secretaries of the Railway Clerks' Association, of which he is Secretary, Mr. A. G. Walkden (prospective Labour candidate for Wolverhampton West), gives some sound advice which applies equally to all Trade Unions, and we commend the following passages to the notice of our readers. Dealing with the effect of the war on his Trade Union, Mr. Walkden says:—

"I am sure it will be obvious to you, and I would ask you to urge the point upon all your members, that it is of the utmost importance the full strength of the R.C.A. should be maintained and not impaired in any way. I say that because I know the increased cost of living will bear heavily upon some of our members, and they may be tempted to become lax in paying their subscriptions. They should, however, recognise that their 'insurance' against disastrous encroachments upon their interests by the employing classes (acting under cover of the present exceptional circumstances) needs to be fully maintained; in fact that no railway clerical worker can 'afford' to have it weakened.

"It will be a hard struggle to maintain during the present circumstances the position we have gained by years of strenuous endeavour on the part of the R.C.A., and it will certainly be more difficult still when the war is over, and the capitalist classes are seeking to recoup their losses. By force of habit they will endeavour to do so at the expense of labour, and the workers may lose all that has been gained by trade union efforts during the last three or four years if their organisations are weakened and in a depleted condition when the war is ended."

CLOSE THE RANKS.

During the progress of the war everything possible must be done to keep the Trade Union movement intact, and to solidify the army of Labour. A speedy peace can only be secured by the forces of peace being united and determined. Whatever may have been our opinion previous to this terrible calamity, we have got to face the fact that it is here and that a new condition of affairs has been created which will have to be effectively dealt with. The Trade Union movement must adapt itself to the altered circumstances, endeavour to bring order out of the industrial chaos, and emerge finally stronger than ever before.

BROTHERHOOD NOTES.

Campaign Postponed.—A meeting of the Campaign Committee was held on Wednesday, August 19, in the Schoolroom, Wesley Chapel, Bilston Road, the Rev. E. Holt being in the chair. A communication was received from the National Executive announcing the postponement of the campaign in consequence of the war.

The Annual Meeting.—A special meeting of the P.S.A. Executive was also held on the same date to make arrangements for the annual meeting to be held on September 27, in Snow Hill Congregational Church. The speaker is Councillor E. Gutteridge, of Nottingham. He has the reputation of being an excellent speaker, and I strongly urge all who can to keep this Sunday afternoon open for the purpose of visiting Snow Hill Church. The meeting commences at 3 o'clock prompt. F.J.T.

HOPE.

HOPE, wide of eye and wild of wing,
Rose with the sun-dawn of a reign
Whose grace should make the rough way plain,
And fill the worn old world with spring,
And heal its heart of pain.

Peace was to be on earth; men's hope
Was holier than their fathers had,
Their wisdom not more wise than glad.
They saw the gates of promise ope
And heard what love's lips bade.

War after war, change after change,
Hath shaken thrones and towers to dust,
And hopes austere and faiths august
Have watched in patience stern and strange
Man's works, unjust and just.

As from some alpine watch-tower's height
Night, living yet, looks forth for dawn,
So from Time's mistier mountain-lawn
The spirit of men, with inward sight,
Yearns towards a hope withdrawn.

The morning comes not, yet the night
Wanes, and men's eyes win strength to see
Where twilight is, where light shall be
When conquered wrong, and conquering right
Acclaim a world set free.

SWINBURNE.

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Your employers will keep your positions open—Your Town will look after your dependents in your absence.

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WHO SHOULD BE THE PICK OF THE NATION.

LORD ROBERTS recently said:—

“THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO PLAY GAMES. WE ARE ENGAGED IN A LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE.”

THE PRIME MINISTER writes that this is the

“GREATEST CONFLICT IN WHICH OUR PEOPLE HAS EVER BEEN ENGAGED.”

We believe that you are not going to stand by and do **NOTHING** and let your Empire perish—but that you will come forward **AS MEN** and and serve your country in the hour of need.

Register your names forthwith at **TOWN HALL, WOLVERHAMPTON** (Open 10-30 to 8-0).

F. H. SKIDMORE, *Mayor of Wolverhampton,*
H. S. STAVELEY-HILL,
GEORGE R. THORNE,
ALFRED BIRD,
T. E. HICKMAN, *Hon.-Col. 6th South Staffords,*
T. F. WATERHOUSE, *Lt.-Col. late Commanding Regt.*