

# The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

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## A FORWARD MOVE.

### WOLVERHAMPTON WOMEN AND INFANTILE MORTALITY

#### ADDRESS BY AN EXPERT.

Great interest was aroused by the visit of Dr. S. G. H. Moore, Medical Officer of Health for Huddersfield, to Wolverhampton, on Thursday, July 23. A large number of working women of the town and district interested in the subject of Baby Clinics attended the meeting, held at the Co-operative Hall, Stafford-street. There were present, among a fairly good audience, several members of the Education Committee. Apologies were received from the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Malet), the School Medical Officer (Dr. Spencer Badger), who paid high tribute to the work of Dr. Moore; Dr. Sergeant (Assistant School Medical Officer), and others.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Women's Labour League, the Workers' Union, and the Railway Women's Guild.

Mrs. Perry, who occupied the chair, remarked that their object was to benefit the human race by assisting the children to grow up to form a strong and healthy nation.

Mrs. Jenny L. Adamson, who has taken an active part in the movement for the institution of a baby clinic in Wolverhampton, having announced the apologies for absence.

Dr. S. G. Moore, in opening his address, said people should recognise that a Nation's offspring should be strong and healthy, as for a Nation to continue to be free and fruitful it was essential that it should be strong and healthy. The Wolverhampton Medical Officer's report stated that in 1881, for every 1,000 people living in Wolverhampton there were 35 births, and that in 1911 the birth-rate had declined considerably. This was occurring in all large towns, as shown by the reports of the registrars.

If a Nation whose birth-rate was declining was to thrive, every means must be taken to prevent the newly-born children dying. He believed that every single child that was born had a perfect right to a fair chance of growing up—no matter how poor, how degraded were its parents. Even if the child were illegitimate, it should have a fair chance to live.

#### Infantile Mortality.

Dealing with the problem of infantile mortality, he gave an analysis of the deaths of children for one week, showing that a percentage of these were children of under one year. This led them to examine the causes of death.

From the years 1892 to 1902, of every 1,000 children born, 153 died in the first year. Of the 153 diarrhoea and colic claims 22, enteritis and gastritis 9½. This meant that those babies had been killed because they had not been provided with proper air, water, food, or by being fed improperly or insufficiently. Waste and debility accounted for 23 out of the 153; premature birth 20, and bronchitis and pneumonia 26.

This afforded an appalling example of the way the children were slain. In the summer there were no deaths from bronchitis or pneumonia, and in winter none from enteritis or diarrhoea. These examples went to show that large numbers of babies die who might be saved.

If it were brought home to the Municipal Authorities that babies ought not to die in so large a number they might hope to do something in the future. Some years ago a medical officer obtained the number of deaths that occurred in houses of five and six rooms, and found that the mortality in the smaller houses was 156, while in the larger houses it was only 55.

#### A Remarkable Story.

Dr. Moore stated that whilst making a visit in Huddersfield he came across a report which was so startling that he could not believe it. This was to the effect that in a certain province in

France of the babies born for ten years all were alive and that no woman had died in child-bearing. "I wrote," he said, "to a French Cabinet Minister who informed me that he had also come across these statements and he also refused to believe them. He sent down a Commissioner, who reported that for ten years the infantile mortality was zero and that no woman had died in child-birth. The Commissioner found that this result had been achieved by the adoption of the following regulations (previous to which they had died at the same rate as other places):

A woman had to report to the Town Hall when she expected to become a mother and the authorities saw that she was provided with attendance at the period of the birth, and the child had to be taken each month to the Town Hall to be examined. (Loud applause.)

"I wanted," continued Dr. Moore, "to get something of the kind done in Huddersfield." There were 2,500 births every year in Huddersfield, but often the first intimation he had was when the parent came to register the birth and death at the same time. He therefore had a clause inserted in the Huddersfield Corporation Bill, then going through Parliament, requiring notification within six weeks from date of birth.

#### What Huddersfield Has Done.

He found that most deaths occurred, not through lack of care on the part of the woman, but ignorance and lack of information. The mother was doing the wrong thing because she did not know better.

He got the Town Council to appoint two lady doctors, whose duties were to visit every birth to advise the mother—(applause)—and ensure that the baby should not die as a result of ignorance.

"The lady doctor's instructions were to ask 'May I come in?' and not to sit down unless invited to do so." (Applause.) A few friendly words were all that were needed. The result was that the death-rate was reduced from 152 to 100 inside five years. (Applause.)

#### Municipal Action—Not Charity.

He drew attention to the effect they might have upon the municipalities, and said that municipal action in this matter was not charity but of far greater importance—by giving to the ignorant knowledge, and sympathy, and raising their standard of thought. (Hear, hear.)

This was not a political question, and would be unsuccessful if taken up by party forces.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that a large amount is going to be paid for maternity benefits—perhaps £7 10s. He assumed from its name this grant was something to help the mother at the time of child-bearing for expenses—such as housing, food, clothing, special assistance, skilled attention and rest from work before the period. (Applause.) He remarked upon the tremendous danger there was during this critical period, stating that valuable information might be given by the nurses. In his opinion if the grants were administered by Approved Societies there would be great difficulties. It was his wish, however, that whoever had charge of the matter the money should be expended wisely. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Mrs. Callear dealt with the question of baby clinics and infant mortality, and moved:

"That this meeting respectfully calls upon the Town Council to consider the advisability of establishing a scheme for the systematic reduction of infantile mortality."

Mrs. Adamson seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

## A HUGE JOKE.

### Birmingham Councillors Laugh at Idea of Semi-Starvation.

By a majority of 19 the Birmingham City Council recently declined to establish a minimum wage of 28s. for men over 25 in their employ.

The General Purposes Committee have had the matter of wages under consideration for some time and they recommended that in view of the fact that the general minimum in the city is 23s. no change be made in the present minimum of 26s. for corporation employees.

Mr. Yates moved an amendment that the minimum be 28s. for employees of 25 or over.

Mr. Hallas, seconding, said he would continue his fight for 30s., but if 28s. were given now it would mean peace for some time. Some members of the Council laughed when Mr. Hallas spoke of families living in a state of semi-starvation. "I wish," he exclaimed, "the councillors who laugh would have the courage to laugh before the electorate at the coming elections."

Mr. W. A. Cadbury said that for a family of six 28s. would mean 2d. a meal, leaving 7s. for rent and other expenses.

The voting was: For the amendment, 59; against, 40. The report was then adopted.

## MEN WHO COUNT.

### Qualities Which Make for Success in Trade Unionism.

The men who count in a Trade Union are the men who regularly pay their subscriptions; who strive unceasingly to bring new members into their branches; who do willingly any of the manifold duties connected with branch work; who stand, determined and unflinching, by their fellows during a dispute; who criticise when criticism is necessary, but who possess, at the same time, a sense of responsibility and do not lay themselves open to criticism; who realise the necessity of discipline and loyally support the men they have chosen to negotiate and officiate for them; and who get down to the study of their own economic position and ceaselessly strive to better it.

Without these men the Union becomes a weak, disorganised rabble; with them, it becomes a powerful instrument for working-class emancipation.

Take any one of the great Trade Unions, induce such men as these to leave, and it will crumble and fade away. But if, on the other hand, you could induce all its members to do as these men do then the field of its accomplishments becomes illimitable—it easily becomes the most powerful factor in industry.

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THE Wolverhampton Worker.

AUGUST, 1914.

TOWN COUNCIL AND THE ARTISAN.

We have to thank Alderman Craddock for the latest definition of the purposes of the Town Council. As might be expected, coming from Alderman Craddock, the definition is couched in negative terms. The worthy Alderman is the personification of "Thou shalt not," and in any other rôle would be unthinkable. He is ever ready to tell us what we must not do, and what we ought not to have done, and his latest pronouncement follows these lines. Replying to a speech by Councillor Bent, Alderman Craddock observed in a tone which made it quite evident that he would accept no contradiction: "We are not here to look after the artisan. . . . We must not carry the artisan on our backs." As an expression of the personal opinion of Alderman Craddock it is interesting. It would give us no surprise, indeed, to learn that he carried the majority of the Town Council with him in this exceedingly noble and generous sentiment.

What They Must Realise.

The Trade Unionists of the town, no doubt, will welcome this candid statement, and probably will find in it some food for reflection. They will realise, henceforth, that although they form a great proportion of the ratepayers they have no claim to the consideration of the

interests. They know now that although the Town Council possess enormous powers affecting their well-being, that august body does not sit to put them into operation. The Trade Unionist must find consolation in the fact that he is privileged to pay his rates and to listen to eloquent rhetoric about the "bottom dog" and the "large ratepayer," but he must on no account ask the Town Council to give him some of the benefits which he pays for. If the artisan expresses a desire for some improvement in his conditions which the Town Council may be in a position to effect, he must not venture to approach his municipal representatives, for has not Alderman Craddock spoken?

Artisans Must Look After Themselves.

Reviewing recent municipal history in the light of Alderman Craddock's remarks, the Trade Unionist ratepayer of the town must admit that the Town Council have faithfully proceeded on the lines of this assertion. At their last meeting they refused payment to workers who are compelled to suffer loss of wages through attending inquests in the capacity of jurors; they have ignored the demands of the artisans for housing accommodation, and are content to allow them to suffer the evils of overcrowding and the tyranny of the landlord monopolists. But they granted out of the artisan's hard-earned wages £400 a year for the education of people who are well in the position to pay for it themselves. That being so, the working-class ratepayers will doubtless arrive at the conclusion that they must look elsewhere for assistance. Realising that the Town Council as at present constituted have no intention of carrying out their desires, they must decide to look after themselves. To do that they must see to it that the unwholesome influence of such men as at present constitute our Town Council is removed from the Council Chamber, and that in their place are substituted men of the artisan class as the Labour Party now possess in the persons of Councillors Frost, Sharrocks, and Bent.

THE LESSON OF WOOLWICH

A magnificent illustration of the possibilities of working-class solidarity has been provided by the strike at Woolwich Arsenal, and it would go a long way towards convincing the ruling classes that the time has gone by when a man could be cruelly and wantonly victimised for daring to stand for Trade Union principles. It should also prove to the workers that the gospel of industrial solidarity is not altogether an impossible ideal, but one which if accepted by all workers would enable them to work out their industrial salvation in a very speedy and effective manner. That this demonstration of the power of the people occurred in a Government Department is all the more remarkable, especially when we recollect that it was this Liberal Government who not so long ago sent out troops to assist the masters in compelling men on strike to return to work.

The Cause of the Dispute.

The trouble in the Arsenal arose through the refusal of a Mr. Entwistle, an engineer, to proceed with the erection of a machine on a foundation which had been laid by blackleg labour. It appears

years' contract with the War Office, were employing only non-union blackleg labour, and when instructed to construct a concrete foundation for a machine at the Arsenal this was the class of labour employed. When Mr. Entwistle received the order to erect the machine he refused on the grounds that it was against his own conscience and the instructions of his Union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, to complete a job which had been commenced by blackleg labour. He was accordingly dismissed by Sir Francis Donaldson, the Chief Superintendent of Ordnance Factories, the result being that several hundred men in the same shop struck work. On being interviewed by a Trade Union deputation, Sir Francis Donaldson offered to reinstate Mr. Entwistle if he would agree to perform the work in question, and, in addition, promised that the whole question of the employment of contractors who were making use of blackleg labour should be inquired into. These conditions were rejected by the men, who demanded the unconditional reinstatement of Mr. Entwistle. The number of strikers had by this time grown to 8,000, and two days afterwards there were 12,000 men of all grades "out," threats being made of extending the strike to other Government departments up and down the country.

Government on their Knees.

This splendid display of unity brought the Government to their knees, and a settlement was effected with the Strike Committee on the understanding that for the present no further work was done in the Arsenal by means of blackleg labour; Mr. Entwistle was to be reinstated unconditionally, and an inquiry was to be held with regard to the action to be taken in connection with the principle out of which the dispute arose. Whatever the result of the inquiry may be, no penalty is to be inflicted on Mr. Entwistle or on any of the other strikers.

Clarion Call to Freedom.

What has been done with the Government, the most powerful of all employers, assuredly can be done with any section of capitalistic monopoly. That is the lesson which the Woolwich episode is pointing to the workers. It is calling to them to organise and take their stand shoulder to shoulder against oppression in every form. It tells the Trade Unionist, in effect, that he is just as much concerned in a dispute as the men who may be out on strike. It puts him on his honour not to touch any work which may be done by blackleg labour, or to do anything which may be of assistance to the masters in an attempt to defeat Trade Unionism at any point. When this lesson is assimilated no work done by blackleg labour will be handled, no trains will run for the purpose of carrying strike-breakers to the scene of a dispute, or troops to cow the strikers into submission. It is a grand and inspiring call to freedom. The Trade Unions, however, should be sure of their strength. The spirit is there, but what is required now, more than at any other period in their history, is the solid, scientific organisation and a clear consciousness of purpose in the ranks of the Unions. The workers must consciously aim at power and not remain content with leaving it in the hands of their enemies.

LANDLORDS AND LIBERTY.

The statement is often made by opponents of Labour that if ever the aspirations of the Labour Party were realised the result would be a total and utter disappearance of the liberty of the subject. The most effective reply we can possibly make to this is to point out an amazing instance of the destruction of liberty which has occurred, not under a Labour régime, but in our own town of Wolverhampton. Were the story not somewhat on the tragic side it would be distinctly humorous. A few weeks ago two residents in the respectable neighbourhood of Lea Road had the misfortune to disagree over some matter or other. Up to the time of the dispute they had lived on quite amicable terms. Unfortunately the harmony was disturbed and in the heat of the moment one of the parties concerned in the trouble took the matter into the

trates the matter would have been finally settled, and the hatchet buried. But not so. A third party stepped in in the person of the landlord. Notwithstanding that justice had been done in the magistrates' court, he evidently had come to the conclusion that the parties were deserving of punishment, and therefore he gave them notice to leave their house. A kindly policeman, however, interceded for them, and pointed out to the landlord that the parties were quite respectable people; that the bother was now over, and that no doubt they would again be good friends. He asked the landlord to reconsider the matter. This the latter promised to do. On the day the notice to quit expired this self-constituted guardian of the public morals visited the tenants, lectured them on their conduct, emphasising the point that if they did not behave themselves they would bring his property into disrepute, and then coolly informed them that he had reconsidered the matter and would allow them to stay on providing they paid him an extra 6d. per week rent!

A Perpetual Penalty.

What were these people to do? The housing problem is such that they dare not resent this impertinent interference with their private affairs. In order to avoid being turned into the street they have to pay a perpetual fine of 26s. per annum because they committed the indiscretion of losing their tempers. No doubt the landlord (whose identity we are aware of) is congratulating himself on a very smart move, but we are inclined to believe that the public will look at the matter in a different light. We do not think they will relish the idea of the landlord's interference with their private concerns. But this is only one instance. We wonder how many of our liberty-loving readers have ever thought of the lengths to which this censorship by the landlord may extend. It has already concerned itself with family limitation, for how often do we read that prospective tenants must have "no encumbrances." At this rate of progress we shall soon have our dear, kind, and benevolent landlords telling us how we must eat our eggs, or whether or not we shall take a second serving of our courses. Under the threat of an increase in our rent we shall lead well-ordered existences, in which thoughtful landlords will keep us in the paths of rectitude. Between them landlordism and capitalism will so control our actions that all necessity for thinking for ourselves will disappear, and we shall automatically follow the lines of correct conduct so thoughtfully laid down by our pastors and masters. That is, of course, if the working class will permit them to go on with it.

Tenants Must Decide.

As an instance of the power of monopoly this Wolverhampton incident is significant. We are in the landlords' hands, and our elected representatives on the Town Council refuse to help us out. What the tenants must decide for themselves is whether they intend to allow this kind of thing to go on. If the landlords decided to-morrow to demand a further increase of one shilling nothing could stop them. The only remedy is to insist on the Town Council adopting the Housing and Town Planning Act and erecting sufficient houses to supply the demand. Then, and only then, will the greedy grip of the landlord be relaxed.

THE PATH OF PROGRESS.

Brothers, look backward—mark the path  
Trode by our pioneers;  
Can we forget their sacrifice,  
Forget their hopes and fears?  
For each blest right we now enjoy  
They dared the price to pay;  
Their watchword this—"The men to come  
Shall hail a brighter day!"

Brothers, look forward—the same path  
Opens with wider scope;  
Our fathers' call, so clear to-day,  
Unfolds a brighter hope.  
We, too, may follow in their train,  
And thus our debt repay;  
Our guerdon this—"The men to come  
Shall hail a better day."

Brothers, look upward—earth-born strength  
Will not suffice to steel  
And nerve our hearts, that we may spend  
Ourselves for others' weal.  
Brothers, look up, let heaven's pure light  
Enrich your humble way;

**CHATS ON HEALTH.**

By BERTHA STAMP.

**IV.—THE SIMPLE LIFE.**

There is scarcely any subject so much misunderstood or misrepresented as the simple life.

Especially is this the case with respect to the worker. The rush and whirl of these strenuous times gives him little time for thinking for himself, and the simple life can be dressed in so many alien garbs that he is apt to get the idea that it is a sort of "turning-out-to-grass" or a Nebuchadnezzar style of living; or, on the other hand, a mode of life made up of a complex set of rules prohibiting everything he likes, and imposing upon its devotees irksome restrictions and regulations that would fill his life with unbearable self-denial.

But the simple life is in reality the foundation on which the worker's life and happiness rests. When those who at present indulge so much in extravagant and unearned luxuries learn to live more simply, and themselves earn what they enjoy, the simple life in its worthiest sense will then become possible for all.

Meanwhile, the worker can do much to introduce the principles of the simple life into his manner of living, especially by taking into consideration matters affecting his diet.

Here and there we find the workers are learning the value of more wholesome foods and drinks, and pure air. Instead of sitting down under the all-too-bad conditions, the more intelligent among them are seeking to counteract, and not to add to the evil effect of, bad conditions by a misuse of their freedom hours.

**Food Values.**

A few of them have already learned the value of a study of food values and sensible diet, etc. It has helped them to get better and cheaper nourishment, it has reduced illness and the need for drugs and medicines, besides being in itself a fascinating subject for thought and experimentation.

Foods may be classified as follows:—

Proteids, which repair and build up the broken-down and worn-out tissues of brain and muscle.

Carbohydrates (sugar and starchy elements) which are the heat and energy producers.

Hydrocarbons (or fats) which also produce heat and energy.

"Salts" (the organic "salts" in cereals, vegetables, salads, etc.) which are very necessary to keep the blood pure and from becoming over-acid.

An important factor in simple diet is balance rather than bulk—a right proportion of the above classes of foods is very essential.

Then there is the all-important factor of occupation. A sedentary brain worker will need less carbohydrates than a manual labourer, because he does not have plenty of muscular exercise in the open air to effect the combustion of all that starchy and sugary (fuel) food.

The sedentary worker especially needs plenty of fruit, greenstuffs, salads, and well-cooked vegetables, while he will get ample proteid (for repairing waste tissue, etc.) from such sources as eggs and egg dishes, cheese and cheese dishes, milk and milk proteids, wholemeal bread and biscuits, etc.

**Condiments Harmful.**

The worker who does hard muscular labour could add to the above sources of proteid such foods as peas, beans, and lentils, which are rich in nitrogenous elements that repair muscular waste, and are, moreover, very economical foods. This class of food, however, needs careful and thorough cooking. In the matter of "salts," English cookery has much to answer for. The ordinary mineral salt on the British breakfast table to-day is a powerful irritant, especially in those suffering from catarrh in any form. It is very doubtful whether this inorganic mineral is ever assimilated at all by the human system, and those who have simplified their diet to the extent of eliminating not only salt, but the other condiments as well, testify to the fact that the real natural flavours of the foods become more enjoyable when they are not disguised by heavy doses of fiery condiments.

In all simple natural foods there is the right proportion already of natural organic "salts," which, when assimilated, are of the greatest value to the blood and to the nervous system. They are found most abundantly in greenstuffs, salads, and well-cooked vegetables. The custom with the English housewife is to boil vegetables in plenty of water, and then throw the most valuable part of the vegetables (their precious blood-purifying juices) down the sink. Then they spend pounds on "blood tonics," complexion specialities, and so on!

It is a good general rule to follow to use foods in their natural state as far as possible. Fruit, for instance, eaten raw in its ripe state is infinitely better than taken in the usual stewed form with masses of shop sugar added to it, causing fermentation and many other troubles.

Fresh salad, well cleaned, is a far more cleansing and cooling and blood-purifying dish than the most elaborate concoction of either chef or chemist.

Simplicity in diet means plain food with the minimum of artificial condiments, and with not too many different kinds of food at the same meal. And such simplicity brings its own reward in increased energy and fitness, and better health all round.

It was suggested that discussions should be permitted at the meetings of a certain Brotherhood. The suggestion was not adopted on the grounds that it would attract the local Socialists, and it was desired to keep them out. We thought that "All are welcome."

—THE NEW TIMES.

**COUNCILLOR SHARROCKS.**

PRESENTATION BY HIS TRADE UNION.

**YEOMAN SERVICE RECOGNISED**

The members of the Boilermakers, Iron and Steel Ship Builders, and Bridge and Girder Makers' Society connected with the Dudley branch assembled in large numbers at the Crown Hotel, the other week, when the principle item on the programme was a presentation to the well-known representative of the society (Councillor W. Sharrocks), who has done very valuable work for his society. Tribute to this was manifested in the course of the evening.

The proceedings took the form of a smoking concert, over which Mr. W. H. Jukes (district secretary) presided.

A number of letters of apology were read, in which the writers were unanimous in declaring their appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Sharrocks, of the Boilermakers' Society for a long number of years, and of the way he had handled negotiations between employers and employed in the disputes and difficulties that had arisen.

Mr. W. Salisbury (Derby) gave "The Boilermakers' Society," which, he said, to-day was second to none in the fighting section for labour interests.

**IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS.**

By Our TELEPHONE OPERATOR.

**XI.—COUNCILLOR FRED EVANS.**

WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER: Hello, Exchange! Put me on Councillor Evans, please.

COUNCILLOR EVANS: Who is that, please?

W.W.: The Labour paper, the WORKER. Is that Councillor Evans?

COUN. E.: It is. What do you want me for? I've no time to waste; I'm very busy.

W.W.: Counting your blessings as a citizen, I presume. Have you joined the National Service League or the Tory Party?

COUN. E.: Why? What on earth for?

W.W.: Oh, I was at the Council meeting the other Monday listening to the melodious cadences of your voice, and I was particularly interested in your remarks on the rights and privileges of citizenship. It was really great. "Citizens of a glorious Empi-ah!" What, what!

COUN. E.: Well, there are rights and privileges.

W.W.: Such as serving on juries. But I have heard all that sort of stuff before. I

**INTO THE VALLEY OF DEATH.**

By HERBERT MORRISON.

INTO the Valley of Death Joseph Chamberlain has passed. Politicians and journalists of all schools testify that it is a great man who has just passed down the Valley, and their sorrow at his passing is a very real sorrow. Thousands of the nation's rank and file are mourning the death of the statesman whom they always thought of as "our Joe." Joseph Chamberlain was a man who had a place in the nation's heart, and Joseph Chamberlain is dead.

Municipal reformer, a warrior against slumdom, pioneer of municipal Socialism, Republican, Radical, anti-Home Ruler, Tory Democrat, Imperialist, Jingo and Tariff Reformer. . . .

There is material for those narrow-souled partisans who find their chief delight in accusing other men of insincerity. Yet who shall tell, who shall say, who shall be quite sure that through it all there was not some common purpose, some ruling passion, some divine spark, working towards an ideal which we do not understand? Through channels and methods which we do not—and, maybe, he did not—understand?

During those early days on the Birmingham Corporation Joseph Chamberlain lived the greatest days of his life, performed the greatest services to the State, laid secure foundations to an enduring social progress. When one thinks of those days and contemplates the Might Have Been, one is filled with a sense of regret and of tragedy. But one may be wrong.

Nevertheless, his work in those early days has not been dropped. Other hands have picked it up. Municipal advance proceeds.

Joseph Chamberlain is dead, but the policy which he initiated goes forward to certain victory.

Mr. R. W. Lindsay responded and remarked that wages were better now than at any time in the history of the society. The conditions had also improved. They were approaching the time when they would have on the north-east coast, at least, every workman a member of the society.

In conclusion Mr. Lindsay presented to Councillor Sharrocks an illuminated address of the history of the society, and said that the officials in the society had the warmest respect for Councillor Sharrocks. No matter what the difficulty was, they could depend upon Councillor Sharrocks for his earnest support. The presentation evoked loud applause.

The presentation to Councillor Sharrocks consisted of a gold chain, medal, umbrella, and a purse of gold. A gold brooch and earrings were presented to Mrs. Sharrocks.

Mr. J. Sedgley made the presentation, and said that Councillor Sharrocks entered the society in 1871. Mr. Sedgley went on to enumerate the valuable services which Councillor Sharrocks had rendered during that long period. Wages had gone up from 30 to 50 per cent. since Councillor Sharrocks had come amongst them. He had never "jibbed," and the confidence they had placed in him had never been misplaced. He had done his very best for them, and the captains of industry in the district had the greatest confidence in him. (Applause.) The testimonials he had received from all parts showed that he was appreciated not only in Staffordshire, but in the whole country.

Councillor Sharrocks, in reply, said that he could hardly thank them sufficiently for the presents made to him. He had failings, but he had done his best. He was thoroughly assured that Trade Unionism was the means of raising wages and decreasing the hours of labour, and had also been the means of influencing the Legislature to obtain better conditions for the worker.

He had done his level best to put employers on an equality, and to see that one should not undercut the other. They aimed at that with the endeavour to avoid disputes, but they would not be satisfied merely with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. (Hear, hear.) They must have a fair share of the wealth that their labour created.

Boilermaking was laborious and dangerous, and if any class of worker ought to be adequately paid it was he who was engaged in that work. They, however, did not want disputes, because it was a loss to employer and employed, and he should never overstep the bounds of reason. (Applause.) What they had given him would stimulate him to further efforts when he was speaking to employers and managers. That fact, he thought, would strengthen their position. (Applause.)

should like to know what the "glorious Empi-ah" does for the poor citizen when he gets out of work—

COUN. E.: But—

W.W.: It lets him starve. It lets his wife and family starve, and when he can't pay his rent he is turned into the street. If he steals to feed his children he is sent to gaol. If he thinks more of his citizenship than go to the workhouse he gets locked up for sleeping out. Pah! This Empire rot makes me sick!

COUN. E.: But didn't I say that jurymen ought to be paid?

W.W.: I believe you did.

COUN. E.: I went further than that. I said they ought to get 9d. an hour—

W.W.: And Councillor Sharrocks said he'd second it if you'd propose it. But you didn't!

COUN. E.: I said I believed that Quarter Sessions and Assize juries as well as Coroners' juries ought to be paid. I said—

W.W.: Enough said. I know you've said a lot of things in your time. But what have you done? That is the test. You said—

COUN. E.: I—

W.W.: Wait a moment. It's my turn now. You said all these things, and they sounded very nice. But there was a chance of doing something at the same time. What did you do?

COUN. E.: Really, I have no time to argue now. I told you I was busy.

W.W.: Well, I'll tell you. After wasting the time of the Council and the public saying all these things, you didn't vote! Surely you believed what you said. You were in favour of 9d. an hour, yet you couldn't even vote for a paltry 2s. a sitting, which Councillor Sharrocks moved.

COUN. E.: Well, I was only one.

W.W.: Yes, and that made it worse. If you had voted for what you said you believed in working men would now be receiving payment for attending inquests; but you didn't, and the voting being equal it took the Mayor's casting vote to defeat it.

COUN. E.: I preferred to remain neutral.

W.W.: And I prefer a man who knows what he wants, even if he is against me. By the way, who is to be the next alderman?

COUN. E.: I don't know. Why?

W.W.: Because if I were you I'd go for it. You never know what accidents may happen at election times. And the public would rather have men of conviction. Ring off, please!

**WHAT IS THE LABOUR PARTY?**

LETTERS TO A WORKING MAN

BY A WORKING MAN.

**V.—A FEW FACTS ABOUT TORIES.**

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Briefly, we have considered your beginning life, your one great ambition being to "get on." The bottom was soon knocked out of your "getting on" theory, however, when you commenced to work for a living. You soon discovered how unequal were the opportunities afforded to Labour in comparison with capital. Rather than "getting on" you came to the conclusion that invariably it was a case of getting under, owing to economic conditions over which you had no control. I dare say when you come to think over the trend of industrialism in your calmer moments, it must have occurred to you that despite all the rash assurances of the Tory Party, and all the bland promises of the Liberal Party, that your economic condition has not improved very considerably.

You were almost pained to find that almost unconsciously you were beginning to lose faith in the two great parties. True, occasionally, they threw a sop in your direction which raised your hopes—for "hope springs eternal in the human breast," as politicians well know—but my dear, dear friend, the tiny bit of social reform meted out in order to keep you quiet is either the result of a popular demand backed up by the whole body of workers which the Government of the day dare not refuse, or it is given by one of the two orthodox parties in order to outdo the other in popularity, and usually it is something the Labour Party has been advocating for years.

**Tories' Record.**

What, for instance, has the Tory Party ever done to merit the support of the workers? It has always upheld the privileges of the landlord and the leisured class, and thwarted and opposed the demands of the masses. In the early part of the last century a meeting was held at St. Peter's Field, Manchester, to demand the vote, between 50,000 and 60,000 people (men, women, and children) being assembled. They were charged upon by the military, and many were left on the field either dead or wounded. The Tory Government of that day thanked the magistrates and the military for their prompt action.

The Tory party is essentially a landlord's party, and it well might be, for about four-fifths of the soil of this country is owned by ten thousand people. Amongst other methods of obtaining land was that of enclosing common lands.

**The Lords' Performances.**

Nor have the Lords, whose power the Tories are so anxious to preserve, dealt more favourably with legislation affecting the welfare of the masses. The House of Lords either rejected, amended, or mutilated the Commons Preservation Act of 1866, the Commons Preservation measure of 1872, and the Commons Bill providing for recreation grounds of 1876. They rejected the Reform Bill of 1831, also measures dealing with corrupt practices of the same year were refused. In 1839 they insisted on the death penalty for sheep stealing, and from then through more recent years they have refused education to miners' children, mutilated a Working Men's Housing Bill, insisted on the right to evict distressed Irish tenants, thrown out the Ballot Bill, the County Franchise Bill, and the Employers' Liability Bill of 1895.

In 1901 the Lords gave the famous Taff Vale decision, and in 1906 they threw out a small Bill passed almost unanimously by the House of Commons prohibiting the importations of alien labourers from abroad in the course of a strike.

The Tories defeated Mr. Labouchere's amendment in favour of abolishing the veto of the House of Lords in 1899 by 223 to 105. In 1897 they rejected a Miners' Eight Hours Bill by 237 votes to 186. In 1899 the country was plunged into a two hundred and fifty million pounds war with the consequent loss of thousands of England's sons, and the introduction into the Rand mines of Chinese slaves.

In 1900 the Tories talked out an Old Age Pensions Bill, and rejected a Cheap Trains Bill by 172 votes to 143. And in 1902 Mr. Pickard's Coal Mines Employment Bill was rejected by 66 votes. Such, then, is the record of the Party who try to woo you with the alluring claims of Tariff Reform.—Yours sincerely, W.

**HAVE YOU A VOTE?**

The new Register will be issued on August 1st. Household and Lodgers are urged to see that their names appear in the Lists which will be found on the doors of all the churches, and at the Post Office and Free Library.

Householders who have changed their residence since July 15th last year should see that they are entered for the new address.

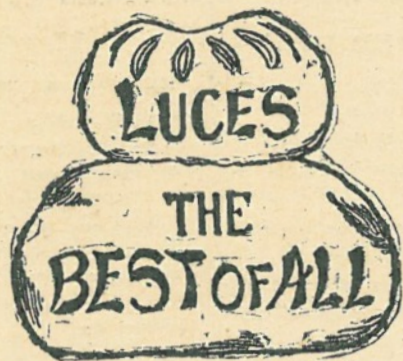
It is not necessary for the occupation to have been in one house for all the twelve months. If two or more houses were occupied in direct succession in the same constituency, or in either of the Parliamentary Divisions of Wolverhampton, the occupier is entitled to be placed upon the Register.

The last day for making claims is August 26th. If not attended to by this date you will be unable to vote for another twelve months.

The address to which you should go to obtain claim forms and information, and to make certain that your name is correctly entered on the Register is Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P., Agent, Labour Assembly Rooms (next to Empire), 35, Queen Square, Wolverhampton.

The office is open each day until 9.30 p.m. If you are unable to call, send a post card.

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

**THE**  
**Wolverhampton Worker.**

AUGUST, 1914.

**TOWN COUNCIL AND THE**  
**ARTISAN.**

We have to thank Alderman Craddock for the latest definition of the purposes of the Town Council. As might be expected, coming from Alderman Craddock, the definition is couched in negative terms. The worthy Alderman is the personification of "Thou shalt not," and in any other rôle would be unthinkable. He is ever ready to tell us what we must not do, and what we ought not to have done, and his latest pronouncement follows these lines. Replying to a speech by Councillor Bent, Alderman Craddock observed in a tone which made it quite evident that he would accept no contradiction: "We are not here to look after the artisan. . . . We must not carry the artisan on our backs." As an expression of the personal opinion of Alderman Craddock it is interesting. It would give us no surprise, indeed, to learn that he carried the majority of the Town Council with him in this exceedingly noble and generous sentiment.

**What They Must Realise.**

The Trade Unionists of the town, no doubt, will welcome this candid statement, and probably will find in it some food for reflection. They will realise, henceforth, that although they form a great proportion of the ratepayers they

interests. They know now that although the Town Council possess enormous powers affecting their well-being, that august body does not sit to put them into operation. The Trade Unionist must find consolation in the fact that he is privileged to pay his rates and to listen to eloquent rhetoric about the "bottom dog" and the "large ratepayer," but he must on no account ask the Town Council to give him some of the benefits which he pays for. If the artisan expresses a desire for some improvement in his conditions which the Town Council may be in a position to effect, he must not venture to approach his municipal representatives, for has not Alderman Craddock spoken?

**Artisans Must Look After Themselves.**

Reviewing recent municipal history in the light of Alderman Craddock's remarks, the Trade Unionist ratepayer of the town must admit that the Town Council have faithfully proceeded on the lines of this assertion. At their last meeting they refused payment to workers who are compelled to suffer loss of wages through attending inquests in the capacity of jurors; they have ignored the demands of the artisans for housing accommodation, and are content to allow them to suffer the evils of overcrowding and the tyranny of the landlord monopolists. But they granted out of the artisan's hard-earned wages £400 a year for the education of people who are well in the position to pay for it themselves. That being so, the working-class ratepayers will doubtless arrive at the conclusion that they must look elsewhere for assistance. Realising that the Town Council as at present constituted have no intention of carrying out their desires, they must decide to look after themselves. To do that they must see to it that the unwholesome influence of such men as at present constitute our Town Council is removed from the Council Chamber, and that in their place are substituted men of the artisan class as the Labour Party now possess in the persons of Councillors Frost, Sharrocks, and Bent.

**THE LESSON OF WOOLWICH**

A magnificent illustration of the possibilities of working-class solidarity has been provided by the strike at Woolwich Arsenal, and it would go a long way towards convincing the ruling classes that the time has gone by when a man could be cruelly and wantonly victimised for daring to stand for Trade Union principles. It should also prove to the workers that the gospel of industrial solidarity is not altogether an impossible ideal, but one which if accepted by all workers would enable them to work out their industrial salvation in a very speedy and effective manner. That this demonstration of the power of the people occurred in a Government Department is all the more remarkable, especially when we recollect that it was this Liberal Government who not so long ago sent out troops to assist the masters in compelling men on strike to return to work.

**The Cause of the Dispute.**

The trouble in the Arsenal arose through the refusal of a Mr. Entwistle, an engineer, to proceed with the erection of a machine on a foundation which had

years' contract with the War Office, were employing only non-union blackleg labour, and when instructed to construct a concrete foundation for a machine at the Arsenal this was the class of labour employed. When Mr. Entwistle received the order to erect the machine he refused on the grounds that it was against his own conscience and the instructions of his Union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, to complete a job which had been commenced by blackleg labour. He was accordingly dismissed by Sir Francis Donaldson, the Chief Superintendent of Ordnance Factories, the result being that several hundred men in the same shop struck work. On being interviewed by a Trade Union deputation, Sir Francis Donaldson offered to reinstate Mr. Entwistle if he would agree to perform the work in question, and, in addition, promised that the whole question of the employment of contractors who were making use of blackleg labour should be inquired into. These conditions were rejected by the men, who demanded the unconditional reinstatement of Mr. Entwistle. The number of strikers had by this time grown to 8,000, and two days afterwards there were 12,000 men of all grades "out," threats being made of extending the strike to other Government departments up and down the country.

**Government on their Knees.**

This splendid display of unity brought the Government to their knees, and a settlement was effected with the Strike Committee on the understanding that for the present no further work was done in the Arsenal by means of blackleg labour; Mr. Entwistle was to be reinstated unconditionally, and an inquiry was to be held with regard to the action to be taken in connection with the principle out of which the dispute arose. Whatever the result of the inquiry may be, no penalty is to be inflicted on Mr. Entwistle or on any of the other strikers.

**Clarion Call to Freedom.**

What has been done with the Government, the most powerful of all employers, assuredly can be done with any section of capitalistic monopoly. That is the lesson which the Woolwich episode is pointing to the workers. It is calling to them to organise and take their stand shoulder to shoulder against oppression in every form. It tells the Trade Unionist, in effect, that he is just as much concerned in a dispute as the men who may be out on strike. It puts him on his honour not to touch any work which may be done by blackleg labour, or to do anything which may be of assistance to the masters in an attempt to defeat Trade Unionism at any point. When this lesson is assimilated no work done by blackleg labour will be handled, no trains will run for the purpose of carrying strike-breakers to the scene of a dispute, or troops to cow the strikers into submission. It is a grand and inspiring call to freedom. The Trade Unions, however, should be sure of their strength. The spirit is there, but what is required now, more than at any other period in their history, is the solid, scientific organisation and a clear consciousness of purpose in the ranks of the Unions. The workers must consciously aim at power and not remain content with leaving it in the hands of their enemies.

**LANDLORDS AND LIBERTY.**

The statement is often made by opponents of Labour that if ever the aspirations of the Labour Party were realised the result would be a total and utter disappearance of the liberty of the subject. The most effective reply we can possibly make to this is to point out an amazing instance of the destruction of liberty which has occurred, not under a Labour régime, but in our own town of Wolverhampton. Were the story not somewhat on the tragic side it would be distinctly humorous. A few weeks ago two residents in the respectable neighbourhood of Lea Road had the misfortune to disagree over some matter or other. Up to the time of the dispute they had lived on quite amicable terms. Unfortunately the harmony was disturbed and in the heat of the moment one of the parties concerned in the trouble took the matter into the

trates the matter would have been finally settled, and the hatchet buried. But not so. A third party stepped in in the person of the landlord. Notwithstanding that justice had been done in the magistrates' court, he evidently had come to the conclusion that the parties were deserving of punishment, and therefore he gave them notice to leave their house. A kindly policeman, however, interceded for them, and pointed out to the landlord that the parties were quite respectable people; that the bother was now over, and that no doubt they would again be good friends. He asked the landlord to reconsider the matter. This the latter promised to do. On the day the notice to quit expired this self-constituted guardian of the public morals visited the tenants, lectured them on their conduct, emphasising the point that if they did not behave themselves they would bring his property into disrepute, and then coolly informed them that he had reconsidered the matter and would allow them to stay on providing they paid him an extra 6d. per week rent!

**A Perpetual Penalty.**

What were these people to do? The housing problem is such that they dare not resent this impertinent interference with their private affairs. In order to avoid being turned into the street they have to pay a perpetual fine of 26s. per annum because they committed the indiscretion of losing their tempers. No doubt the landlord (whose identity we are aware of) is congratulating himself on a very smart move, but we are inclined to believe that the public will look at the matter in a different light. We do not think they will relish the idea of the landlord's interference with their private concerns. But this is only one instance. We wonder how many of our liberty-loving readers have ever thought of the lengths to which this censorship by the landlord may extend. It has already concerned itself with family limitation, for how often do we read that prospective tenants must have "no encumbrances." At this rate of progress we shall soon have our dear, kind, and benevolent landlords telling us how we must eat our eggs, or whether or not we shall take a second serving of our courses. Under the threat of an increase in our rent we shall lead well-ordered existences in which thoughtful landlords will keep us in the paths of rectitude. Between them landlordism and capitalism will so control our actions that all necessity for thinking for ourselves will disappear, and we shall automatically follow the lines of correct conduct so thoughtfully laid down by our pastors and masters. That is, of course, if the working class will permit them to go on with it.

**Tenants Must Decide.**

As an instance of the power of monopoly this Wolverhampton incident is significant. We are in the landlord hands, and our elected representatives on the Town Council refuse to help us out. What the tenants must decide for themselves is whether they intend to allow this kind of thing to go on. If the landlords decided to-morrow to demand a further increase of one shilling nothing could stop them. The only remedy is insist on the Town Council adopting the Housing and Town Planning Act and erecting sufficient houses to supply the demand. Then, and only then, will the greedy grip of the landlord be relaxed.

**THE PATH OF PROGRESS**

Brothers, look *backward*—mark the path  
 Trod by our pioneers;  
 Can we forget their sacrifice,  
 Forget their hopes and fears?  
 For each blest right we now enjoy  
 They dared the price to pay;  
 Their watchword this—"The men to come  
 Shall hail a brighter day!"

Brothers, look *forward*—the same path  
 Opens with wider scope;  
 Our fathers' call, so clear to-day,  
 Unfolds a brighter hope.  
 We, too, may follow in their train,  
 And thus our debt repay;  
 Our guerdon this—"The men to come  
 Shall hail a better day."

Brothers, look *upward*—earth-born strength  
 Will not suffice to steel  
 And nerve our hearts, that we may spend  
 Ourselves for others' weal.  
 Brothers, look up, let heaven's pure light  
 Enrich your humble way;  
 Your guiding star—"The men to come

**JOTTINGS.**

The blessing bestowed by Alderman Bantock upon the appointment of the lady doctor at the July meeting of the Education Committee was a chivalrous effort.

Displaying great keenness, the worthy alderman sharply inquired: "Why is the lady leaving Walsall to come here?"

On being informed by the Chairman (Alderman Johnson) that he thought it was a better position financially, Mr. Bantock excitedly exclaimed: "That is my point. If Walsall can get such excellent people as this at a lower salary, why is it we have to pay so much higher?"

Although Wolverhampton is a larger area than Walsall, that is no reason why the additional labour entailed should be recognised.

Obviously the alderman does not believe in rewarding Labour according to its capabilities. Being a capitalist, he is no doubt determined to use every opportunity to do all in his power in the opposite direction.

There is consolation in the thought that every dog has his day.

I was interested to read that Councillor Roland Marston became much concerned at the last Education Committee meeting with regard to the high price of a tender for the erection of a new department at Walsall Street Council Schools.

The cost of doing the work by private contract amounted to £6,073, or £17 per head of the school membership.

Councillor Marston said: "Rather tall, isn't it?"

He was assured by the builder representative for Blakenhall that "this compared favourably with other schools the committee had built."

Is it too much to expect that Mr. Marston may discover that the remedy for this state of things is to be found in the proposal of the Labour Party that the Council should employ direct Labour in this and other directions, thereby freeing the municipality from the baneful machinations of private profiteering?

Much was written at the time in praise of the strenuous efforts of the ladies who helped to make Alexandra Day so successful locally.

It was, indeed, a wonderful day's work on behalf of the sick and the suffering.

While I welcomed the great appeal in the interests of our hospitals, yet it was a haunting reflection that these institutions should be allowed to remain from year to year at the mercy of Charity, which is as uncertain and elusive as a shy maiden.

In Germany the State as effectively ensures the welfare of the hospitals, as in England, Government control of the Post Office guarantees a reliable system of letter delivery.

An illuminating little dialogue occurred in London the other day.

A prospective jurymen at the Sessions informed the presiding Judge that he did not wish to shirk his duty as a citizen, but he would lose work if he were empanelled. "I have ten children, my lord," the man appealed.

"Enough!" said the Judge. "You have done your duty already. Go back to your work."

In the absence of a system of payment of jurors as concerns the local coronership, Mr. Maynard Martin might learn something from this incident.

It was highly pleasing to note that the interest in the Floral Fête was so magnificently maintained.

I should like to see the working classes seeking to popularise the seaside places for a summer holiday to something like the same extent.

Some of the Trade Unions insist upon a week's holiday with pay once a year.

The workers should always remember it is they who create the wealth, and that consequently they have a right to largely enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Only through working-class organisation and representation—politically as much as industrially—can the principle be established.

"Book Thrown at a Judge" was the heading to a report of a scene at a suffragette trial in one of the papers.

The *Daily Citizen* wittily commented that perhaps it was felt that "learned judge" was a misnomer in this case, and he needed the missile!  
C. VERE.

The flunkeyism propagated by the Throne is the price we pay for its political convenience.  
-G. B. SHAW.

**LOCAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.**

By "THE CHIEL."

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

—BURNS.

All my readers will be glad to hear that Mr. James Whittaker, J.P., is back again at his office. His prolonged stay in Southport has benefited him immensely, and I am pleased to say that he is now fit and well and eager for the fray. Mr. Whittaker will be glad to meet any friends who are anxious to put in some work for Mr. Walkden. The election cannot be so very far off, and although there is an enthusiastic and ever-growing band of workers, there is no doubt the fight will be a stiff one, and all available help will be needed if a victory is to be won for Labour.

**How They Are Treated.**

Another instance of the treatment meted out to Labour members on the Wolverhampton Town Council is again provided. Councillor Sharrocks, at the June meeting, had brought forward the question of payment of jurymen. This was referred to the General Purposes Committee to report to the July meeting. When the agenda for that meeting was issued it was found that Councillor Sharrocks' motion was not included. Naturally he wanted to know the reason, but was coolly informed that he could move it as an amendment. But that, of course, was not the point. Councillor Sharrocks had put down his motion, and it certainly should have been on the agenda. If only as a matter of courtesy Councillor Sharrocks was entitled to this small amount of consideration. I doubt whether this would have occurred had it been a subject raised by one of the aldermen. But it is only one of many incidents showing the small regard in which the workers of the town are held by the Wolverhampton Town Council.

**The Status of the Clerk.**

Evidently the Town Council have not yet decided in their own minds exactly in what classification the clerk should be placed, and there was another interesting discussion on the matter at the last meeting. Councillor Mander, by the way, has been showing active sympathy with the Labour movement. I believe Councillor Mander styles himself a Liberal, but it appears to me to be a case of a man being better than his creed, for, while the orthodox Liberal is generally to be found in opposition, here we have Councillor Mander not only sympathising with, but wholeheartedly supporting movements which are purely Labour. Councillor Mander asked how many clerks over 21 years of age in the employ of the Corporation were receiving less than the minimum of 24s. a week, to which the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Alderman Johnson) said he was advised that clerks did not come within the meaning of the resolution recently passed by the Corporation.

Councillor Mander replied that he should have thought "able-bodied employees" would have included clerks. But according to the Town Clerk it does not. What I want to know is, What is a clerk? We were told a short time ago that a clerk was not a workman. Now we are informed he is not an able-bodied man. He is not a junior if he is over 21, and yet seven of the clerks in the employ of the Council do not get able-bodied employees' wages of 24s. per week. The clerk is having a long struggle to become recognised in Wolverhampton.

**Sweated Wages for Clerks.**

But the facts which leaked out constitute a grave indictment not only against the Town Council, but against the whole of the people of Wolverhampton. Here we have a municipality paying sweated wages to a body of men who, to say the least, are required to be a little better educated than the ordinary worker. They are required to dress better than the ordinary worker, to keep up a respectable appearance, and yet seven are employed at a starvation wage. The custom in the Town Hall, I believe, is to pay a clerk when he reaches the age of 21 22s. 6d. per week, and then if he behaves himself he may rise, at the discretion of the particular committee whom he may be serving. The rate laid down by the National Union of Clerks is 30s. per week to all above 21 years. In the Wolverhampton Town Hall a clerk generally is 26 years old before he gets this magnificent salary, and I believe that even now the Corporation are employing married men as clerks on this meagre pittance. What does the skilled mechanic who can draw much better pay than this think about it? I certainly think some strong action ought to be taken on the matter.

**A Practicable Suggestion.**

During the discussion on the Housing Committee's report Alderman Sir Charles Mander inquired whether it would not be possible for the Electricity Committee and the Housing Committee to co-operate in the matter of supplying the new municipal houses with electricity for lighting, heating, and cooking purposes. I noticed that the suggestion was received with some amusement. Why this should be so I fail to see. As a writer in a local evening

newspaper recently stated, electricity is the coming factor in this direction, and it is certainly a practicable suggestion that municipal houses should be supplied with municipal electricity. The Stafford Corporation have supplied all their houses with municipal gas. Wolverhampton does not own its gas supply, but the electricity undertaking belongs to the town, and pays a handsome profit. The day will assuredly come, as the writer I have referred to remarks, when houses will be built without chimneys, and I don't see why the Corporation should not make a start in that direction. It would be cleaner and healthier, and as far as I can see would present no insurmountable difficulty.

**Doing a Favour?**

I wonder whether any of my readers pay any attention to the little paragraphs, known as "fill-up pars.," which are to be found at the bottom of the columns in any newspaper. There is a fund of humour in many of them, and often they give expression to some very pronounced views. Recently I was attracted by one in a local Conservative evening newspaper. I quote it in full:

Many a man performs his task as though he thought he was doing his employer a favour.

Just that, and nothing more. But it conveys a world of meaning. It seems to me that it is a sly dig at the independence which to-day is being manifested by the trade unionist. It seems to me to be an expression of regret that the worker no longer goes on his knees and thanks a merciful Providence that there is a beneficent employer who is doing him the favour of finding him work and providing him with food to eat and clothes to wear. While the paragraph undoubtedly was written in a cynical spirit, I quite agree with it. The working man is awakening to the knowledge that, after all, if there is any suggestion of favours about, it is the working class who are giving them, for is it not the labour of the working man which provides the employer with his income and his luxuries? Without the worker the capitalist would be helpless. On the other hand, it is proved that the worker is not entirely dependent on the capitalist, who, under a saner system of society, will be entirely eliminated. As things are, I prefer to regard the position of the worker and employer as a purely business arrangement in which the worker sells the employer his one commodity of labour in return for a specified sum. To suggest, therefore, that the worker is receiving favours from the masters is entirely out of the way.

**Socialists Please Note!**

I am asked to announce that the *Clarion* Fellowship are meeting in the Labour Assembly Rooms, Queen Square, every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m., and a cordial invitation is extended to all Socialists to join them. I can assure them they will have a happy time. A jollier set of people than the "Clarionettes" it would be difficult to meet, and they quite belie the impression that Socialists are dry-as-dust people steeped up to the eyebrows in Marxian economics. While they will be able to tell you anything you may wish to know on these subjects, yet it will be found that they are a very human set of people, banded together in a strong determination to wipe away the inequalities which exist in this world of ours, and to do something towards making life brighter and nobler for the great mass of toiling humanity. The secretary is Mr. W. Fox, 1, Hall-street, Wolverhampton.

**To Contributors.**

I should be glad if readers would please note that all communications intended for the *WORKER* should be addressed either to the EDITOR or "THE CHIEL." Correspondence has often gone astray because it has been addressed to others not connected with this journal, and to ensure that letters may be dealt with expeditiously I hope readers will bear this in mind.

**MR. BEN TILLET.**

**Ill-Health May Probably Cause Retirement.**

Mr. Ben Tillett, who recently addressed a mass meeting in Wolverhampton, has intimated to the Dockers' Union that he might be compelled to retire on account of the state of his health. He has been and is very ill, and at their congress at Swansea the Union delegates urged him to take every step necessary for the benefit of his health.

Tillett has never spared himself in the fight. Restless, indefatigable, with a force and energy truly remarkable, he has given up his best for the Trade Union movement. His powerful eloquence, his patience and skill, his sound judgment and indomitable pluck have won many a victory for the workers.

Those who went through the London dock strike of 1912 will never forget the magnificent courage and endurance displayed by Tillett against overwhelming odds. We hope the day will be far distant before this retirement takes place.

**A DISTINGUISHED DOCTOR.**

**Achievements of Huddersfield's Health Adviser.**

**UNSPARING PUBLIC OFFICIAL.**

Dr. S. G. H. Moore, M.D., M.B., Ch.B. (Vict.), D.P.H. (Lond.), who visited Wolverhampton on Thursday, July 23rd, has had a most distinguished and comprehensive career. The doctor is at present Medical Officer of Health for Huddersfield, and during the past twenty years has been engaged exclusively in public health work.

A noteworthy feature of this medical gentleman's interest in legislation affecting our child life is the fact that the Notification of Births Act, 1907, originated with him. That so important an enactment had its origin in the person of a medical officer of health is in itself sufficient to excite considerable notice. The facts are these. The doctor advised the Huddersfield Corporation to obtain power to require all births in that borough to be notified to him as medical officer. This was done. When that Corporation's Bill was before the particular Committee of the House of Commons, an M.P. inquired as to the advisability of making the power sought general in its application throughout the country, and consequently a clause was inserted in the Bill to meet the case, and it ultimately became law in its wider aspect.

**A Great Achievement.**

Dr. Moore's second report to the Huddersfield Town Council on infantile mortality is now in its fourth issue. So many requests to be furnished with copies were received that the



Council, when authorising the printing of the third edition, directed that it should be placed on sale. As well as from all parts of the United Kingdom, applications for copies have been received from the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Belgium, France, Egypt, Ceylon, etc. We know of no other report of a medical officer of health which has aroused such widespread interest.

The present Medical Officer for Huddersfield's experience includes the positions of lecturer in public hygiene and sanitation at the Technical College, chief school medical officer, superintendent of hospitals, bacteriologist, inspector of midwives, and medical adviser to the Insurance Committee, all under the County Borough of Huddersfield.

At a period of pressure on the accommodation of the local Isolation Hospital, Dr. Moore devised a new method of disinfecting, which has now been in operation for some ten years, by which the average duration of treatment per case is reduced thereby from 44 to 29 days, meaning a saving approximately of £1,000 per 500 cases treated, and at the same time a very low mortality is obtained.

**A Well-Known Lecturer.**

The person of our sketch is a widely-known lecturer in this country. His published reports upon a varied range of medical subjects make valuable reading for those interested in the health of the people.

Dr. Moore received his general education in Liverpool, Flanders, and London. At the end of a five years' course he obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of the Victoria University, and in 1905 secured the degree of Doctor of Medicine for a thesis on Infantile Mortality.

Realising the importance of teaching hygiene in schools, the doctor made a great impression at one of the Sanitary Congresses by reading a paper on the question. He has also contributed valuable reports to the Board of Education.

On completing the necessary courses, Dr. Moore obtained the Diploma in Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Dr. Moore is not only a very competent officer and thoroughly qualified to speak on the subject of Baby Clinics, but he has made great sacrifices for the sake of serving his profession not merely from a mercenary incentive. As an instance of this it may be mentioned that a wealthy American gentleman some time ago invited him to give up his public health work and "make a crusade for pure milk" on his behalf, the remuneration proposed being £1,000 per annum, which tempting offer was declined.

# THE FIRST STEP.

## WOLVERHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL MOVE AT LAST.

### LABOUR PARTY VINDICATED.

#### GREEN LANE SCHEME REVIEWED AND IMPERFECTIONS POINTED OUT.

#### MORE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME DEMANDED.

#### ALDERMAN CRADDOCK INSULTS TRADE UNIONISTS.

ARTICLE XI.—BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

At long last the Wolverhampton Town Council have aroused themselves and the first step towards improving housing conditions in Wolverhampton is to be taken.

Incidentally, they have also made an admission. It will be remembered that about eighteen months ago, when this housing controversy first began with the increase of rents imposed by landlords, several Labour speakers, particularly Mr. A. G. Walkden, the prospective Labour candidate, drew attention to the squalid condition prevailing in Wolverhampton.

Immediately there was a fine hubbub, and at several council meetings the Labour Party were accused of libelling the town, and there was further talk of strangers coming into the borough and telling fairy stories and untruths, and committing other and varied sorts of heinous and horrible offences—the chief among which apparently was the refusal to believe that Wolverhampton was really the Elysium, the place of idyllic charm, some of our town councillors appeared to be under the impression it was.

And so the wordy warfare proceeded, and, incidentally much political capital was made about Labour men coming from London and slinging mud, and so on, etc., etc., etc. Then the WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER appeared on the scene, and I was requested to find out as far as possible housing conditions in the town. My readers know the result. I imagine that the statements about Wolverhampton were conclusively proved, and although we have places with such pleasantly suggestive names as Monmore Green and Horseley Fields it was generally found that the origin of the names had been obliterated by miles of dirty, dreary tenements, and that if ever the greens and fields existed in those quarters they had long since been forgotten.

That the Labour speakers were justified has been admitted, and although no apology has been tendered for the hard things which were said about those who pointed to the true nature of things, we are quite satisfied with the admission.

That admission was made by the Mayor in introducing the report of the Housing Committee. He informed the Council that the present housing scheme had become absolutely imperative because the work of the Medical Officer was hampered by the fact that he could not condemn insanitary and unsatisfactory property because there were no houses for the tenants to go into.

The gravest charge that could be made against the borough was thus made, not by the Labour Party, but by the Mayor himself. Before the Health Committee could proceed with their work and demolish old property houses must be built. That was the Mayor's charge; and it is what the Labour Party have been saying a long time.

#### THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

##### Details of Houses to be Erected.

Therefore the Town Council agreed to proceed with the scheme recommended. We have italicised significant portions of the report, which stated:—

The committee had prepared a scheme for the erection of workmen's dwellings in the borough, and several sites having been viewed by the committee, it was unanimously decided that the site selected in Green Lane (containing an area of 15,545 square yards or thereabouts) the most suitable and best adapted for the erection of workmen's dwellings, as it lies in a healthy area upon a high elevation and is centrally situated. The property is owned by Mr. George Large, and an agreement for purchase has been concluded with him. The plans now submitted have been prepared by the borough surveyor and approved by your committee. It will be observed there is sufficient land available for the erection of 90 houses, to be erected in blocks of not more than six, and it is proposed there shall be 7 blocks of 6; 8 blocks of 5; and 2 blocks of 4; making 90 houses in all.

Your committee recommend that the scheme should be commenced by the erection of 60 houses. It is proposed that the centre two blocks, containing 12 houses in Cartwright Street and Vicarage Road should be set back five feet beyond the blocks on either side. The end houses of each block will project about two feet in front of the rest of the block to make a little more outline and shadow, and to prevent the

enable the tenants to get quickly and easily to their respective houses.

There are two spaces at the rear which may be used either as recreation or playgrounds, allotment gardens, or spaces planted with grass and trees. Each house, apart from these open spaces, has a portion of ground allotted to it 12 feet wide and about 20 feet deep.

No provision is made in the Estimate for fencing the separate yards to each house or the recreation ground and allotments, or for making roadways at the rear of the houses, beyond a paved strip, which will run at the back of each block.

The removal of dust and the delivery of coal into the houses can easily be effected at the openings which occur so frequently throughout the area. *It has not been feasible to provide baths in the respective houses.*

The plan shows a large living room 14-ft. by 15-ft. at the houses at either end of each block of 6 or 5. These end houses provide 3 bedrooms, living room and scullery. The scullery being a small room 9ft. 7in. by 6ft. 8in., with boiler and receptacle for coals. The w.c. will be outside, and the pantry underneath the stairs approached from the living room.

*One bedroom only has a fireplace.* The partitions between the bedrooms are made of solid coke breeze.

The four houses in the centre of each block are of slightly smaller dimensions, and only contain 2 bedrooms, the arrangement for the w.c., copper, pantry, and coals, etc., being on the same lines as the larger houses.

*It is not proposed to plaster the walls of the Scullery, w.c., coal places and pantries, but the walls of the living rooms and bedrooms will be plastered. Cement skirting will be used in the living room, and in order to make the living room as large as possible, it is suggested that the staircase should not have a wall or solid partition, but be enclosed with woodwork.*

It should be understood that the very strictest economy will have to be used in these houses, and that no accessories or luxuries can be introduced if this scheme is to be carried out at the approximate sum in the estimates. The estimates are so extremely low that the sizes of the houses may have to be reduced.

The rental was proposed to be fixed at the sum of 4s. 6d. per week in respect of the 22 houses containing 3 bedrooms, and the sum of 3s. 9d. per week for the remaining 38 houses which will contain two bedrooms only.

The purchase money agreed to be paid in respect of the land is £1,845, and the cost of the erection of 60 houses now proposed amounts to £10,186, making a total capital expenditure of £12,031.

It will be observed that the financial statement, which has been prepared by the borough accountant, shows a debit balance to be met out of the rates of £187, but against this deficit the probable gain to the public health of the borough must be considered if the scheme is carried into effect.

#### AN IMPERFECT SCHEME.

##### Housing Committee's Peculiar Statement.

It will be seen from the report of the committee that there was plenty of room for improvement in the scheme, but the Town Council were evidently under the impression that a start had to be made, and although there was plenty of criticism the scheme was allowed to go through with all its imperfections.

That the imperfections are many will be seen by the italicised portion of the report, and one of the most serious features is that there will be practically no gardens allotted to the houses. It is well known that a tenant, by growing vegetables, can often save an equivalent of somewhere about 6d. per week of the rent, besides having the advantage of health-giving recreation in the open air.

Practically nothing in the shape of conveniences beyond the usual w.c. is provided. It has not been feasible to provide baths, gas fittings, and picture rails. Contrasting this with the Stafford schemes which I reviewed last month, it will be seen that the tenants at Stafford have decidedly the advantage.

##### The Value of Sunlight.

I have often pointed out the value of ventilation and sunlight, and I was considerably surprised to find that it is proposed to construct the pantries underneath the stairs, approached from the living room. This appears to be the usual method in this district. It means that the

air is absolutely necessary for the preservation of food, and that sunlight is the finest disinfectant there can possibly be, the disadvantages of these pantries will be apparent.

It will also be noticed that the staircase is not to have a wall or a solid partition, but is to be enclosed with woodwork. It is hardly possible, without seeing the plans, to understand what this means, but evidently it is something which, for the sake of cheapness, will be to the disadvantage of the house.

And why only one bedroom should have a fireplace is altogether beyond me. It will certainly mean, in the case of illness, serious inconvenience to the tenants by having to change bedrooms.

##### What Do They Mean?

The committee also tell us that no luxuries can be introduced, and that the estimates are so low that the size of the houses may have to be reduced. This is altogether surprising. They inform the public at large that the houses may be of such and such a size, but then again they may not! Exactly what they do mean it is rather difficult to perceive. But I should like to point out that in Stafford the houses which are approximate in rent to these only cost £175 each to erect, whereas in Wolverhampton, with all the provisions and reservations, the cost is to be £200 or over.

#### SOME REMARKS ON FINANCE.

##### How the Scheme is Being Overloaded.

But on account of the urgency of the matter the scheme was allowed to go through. Much was made during the discussion of the fact that the rates would have to bear a burden of £187 a year. The committee rightly point out that for health reasons alone this was justified.

However, in considering this question of a deficit of £187 per annum, it is interesting to note that "the Borough Surveyor has been most carefully into all the items, and has not missed anything that could be charged to the expenditure side of the account." That is easily understood. It is generally the object with these municipal schemes to so load them with unnecessary charges as to make a deficit appear where a private owner would show a profit.

Comparing some of the items on the expenditure side of the Wolverhampton scheme with the estimates of the Stafford scheme, I find that even here there are some glaring differences which are significant. For instance, where Stafford have charged 2½ per cent. against the rents for "supervision and collection," the Wolverhampton Housing Committee are allocating 5 per cent.—exactly twice the amount—yet in Stafford this expenditure is not actually incurred, a youth from the Town Hall undertaking the work at no cost to the houses.

##### Startling Differences.

In regard to "allowances for empties and bad debts" the difference is more startling. Under this heading Stafford have deducted from the rents 1 per cent.; Wolverhampton propose to deduct 7½ per cent. Even the 1 per cent. has been found to be unnecessary in Stafford, there having been no bad debts and no empties. What other reason the Wolverhampton Housing Committee may have then in overloading the scheme with difficulties I cannot imagine. If the houses are going to be all that some of the Town Council appear to think they will there will be very few empties, and a business-like committee should see there are no bad debts. Therefore 7½ per cent. allocated under this head is exorbitant.

The following table will be of interest:

	Wolver'n.	Stafford.
Supervision and collection of rents	5 p.c.	2½ p.c.
Repairs and maintenance	7½ p.c.	15 p.c.
Allowances for empties and bad debts	7½ p.c.	1 p.c.
Totals	20 p.c.	18½ p.c.

The results in Stafford after twelve years' working are:

Supervision and collection of rents	Nil.
Repairs and maintenance	Over £200 in hand.
Empties and bad debts	Nil.

These figures, therefore, prove that the scheme is being unjustly saddled with burdens which are not likely to arise.

##### Tenants Present Houses to the Town.

The charging of sinking fund to profit and loss account would never occur in a private owner's system of bookkeeping. As I have previously pointed out he would take the total amount of rents received, less repairs, depreciation, etc., and the balance on net income would represent the return on capital invested. He certainly would not debit an item of return of capital against the rents. Therefore the placing of the sinking fund in the profit and loss account prevents the true showing of the financial position. Were the accounts kept in the same manner as the private owner would keep his, and the sum for sinking fund transferred to capital account, the scheme would show a handsome profit instead of an alleged deficit of £187.

To those who object that they ought not to be called on to find this amount out of the rates I must point out that what will actually happen is that the tenants of the houses will repay the loan, the interest on the loan, will keep the houses in repair, will pay whatever bad debts

made up from the rates (which will tend to get less every year) it will be found that they have made a free gift to the town of Wolverhampton of the houses.

##### Direct Labour.

One other point. It will be noticed that tenders will be invited for the erection of the houses. Here again there might have been a considerable saving. By doing the work themselves by direct labour the Corporation would have saved the contractor's profits. For the life of me I cannot see where any reasonable objection can be raised. If the work is done through a contractor the Corporation must be paying the wages of the men employed on the work. What exactly happens is that the Corporation hand over a lump sum of money to a middleman. The middleman procures the material and makes a "little" for himself in the process. He pays the men, but takes his own portion out first. Therefore the Corporation have paid the men and have helped to keep one useless individual as well. Very often the contractor couldn't do the work himself if he tried, and most contractors employ a manager. Why should not the Corporation employ the manager and dispense with the contractor altogether. By so doing they would save considerable sums of money, which would tend to materially reduce the cost of the schemes.

#### WHAT WOLVERHAMPTON REQUIRES

##### A Scheme to Relieve Congestion.

##### HOUSES FOR THE ARTISAN.

There were a few of the members of the Council who realised that the Green-lane scheme just adopted was not exactly the right scheme for Wolverhampton. It is certainly true that the houses were necessary in order to enable the Health Committee to condemn some of the present slum property, but even this will not do anything to relieve the congestion.

Councillor Bent made a superb speech in calling on the Council to do something for the artisan and the better class worker. He pointed out that many people are houseless, and others overcrowded. If better-class houses were erected the present inflated values of some of the property would go down, and this in a large measure would help to solve the slum problem.

##### Alderman Craddock's Insult to Artisans.

This drew from Alderman Craddock the remarkable declaration that the Town Council do not exist to look after the skilled workers, and that they (the skilled workers) could get money to build houses of their own. If this is correct, it is surprising that there are not more people living in their own houses; if it is incorrect—and in my opinion it is—then Alderman Craddock has uttered a more serious libel on the people of Wolverhampton than Mr. Walkden or the Labour Party ever did in drawing attention to conditions in the town. In making this statement that the people could get money to build their own houses, Alderman Craddock charges them with being spendthrifts, of neglecting their opportunities, and of not doing their duty to themselves and their families. I deny that altogether, and I challenge Alderman Craddock or any of those members of the Council who agreed with him to try and keep their families on 30s.—or £2—a week and either save sufficient to build a house or to repay a loan from a building society. With prices as they are to-day it is utterly impossible for any man with a family to do it, and Alderman Craddock ought to be called upon to withdraw his ill-considered remarks.

##### A Profitable Scheme Demanded.

I entirely agree with Councillor Mander in saying that the scheme adopted resulted in a subvention of low wages. It is no use building houses down to low wages. Low wages should be attacked on both sides—locally by building decent houses and nationally by legislation through Parliament raising wages. By going in for charity schemes the Corporation is encouraging the sweating employer. He will not pay proper wages so long as the municipal authority assists him by putting up houses at rents to meet his convenience.

It has been proved at Stafford that the better the class of house erected the better it pays the municipality. It is quite possible for the Town Council to enter upon a scheme for housing the people which will be quite as profitable in proportion as any other municipal undertaking, even after paying sinking fund and the other charges which they seem to be so fond of dumping on to the cost of the schemes. Stafford has proved that the class of house which the Labour Party are asking for can be provided at a profit to the rates.

##### Where Private Enterprise Has Failed.

Let it not be supposed that with this scheme the housing question in Wolverhampton is done with once and for all. It has not even touched the fringe of the problem, and the Labour Party will persist in their demands for a comprehensive scheme embracing houses at rents from 6s. 6d. per week upwards.

The Housing Acts of 1889-90 and 1909 were placed on the Statute Book to enable local authorities, where private enterprise had failed, to supply the demand for houses. Private enter-

in houses are suffering from all sorts of petty tyranny from landlords, who find that they are in a position to do exactly as they please with their tenants. They are making full use of their power, as an instance detailed on another page will show.

If the Town Council are content to allow things to remain in the present intolerable position, the Labour Party are not. The fight is only just beginning.

#### A Call to Wolverhampton Householders.

Are the Wolverhampton tenants going to stand idly by and allow themselves to be sold by their elected representatives to a ring of greedy exploiters? Are they content to pay 8s. per week for houses not worth above 5s.? Are they content to be insulted with threats of notice to leave for no reason whatever than the pompous pride of a bullying landlord who realises his power.

If they are not—and I am confident they are not—they will wholeheartedly support the efforts the Labour Party are making on their behalf.

The landlords' ring must be broken, and the only people who can do it are the tenants. The landlords are already frightened of what the householders may do when election time comes round.

If the tenants were equally conscious of their own power they would drop their political prejudices and vote only for men who declared themselves ready to support and press forward a wholesale housing and town-planning scheme which would relieve them of the difficulties which they are labouring under, and would make a better, brighter, and healthier Wolverhampton.

## LLOYD GEORGE AND THE RICH MEN.

Unless Mr. Lloyd George mends his ways he will go down to posterity as a statesman of bold speech and timid action.

The speech in which he foreshadowed the Insurance Act could not have pictured its blessings more glowingly had it been destined to establish the Millennium; even an extremist like Mr. Lansbury was deluded by the Chancellor's golden promises.

The perorations of his land campaign speeches are couched in similar terms, yet were his proposals ever to reach the Statute Book all they would amount to would be the regulation—a very different thing from the termination—of landlordism.

His Budget speeches have been most misleading of all. The land taxes of 1909, his orations in support of which inspired "The Land Song," with its revolutionary refrain, "God gave the land to the people," have yielded but one-fifth of the amount by which the revenue the landlords are receiving is increasing every year.

But the most amazing of all was the announcement that the tax on unearned incomes promised for the current year is to be reduced from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 3d., and that the grants to local authorities, with the exception of the educational, school-feeding, and insurance contributions, are to be postponed until next year!

#### Rich Radicals' Victory.

The opposition of the wealthy men who finance the Liberal Party could not be faced.

The assurance that these alterations in the Finance Bill have been made solely because of difficulties of procedure will deceive only the most credulous and blind supporters of the Government.

It was perfectly obvious from the speech of Mr. Herbert Samuel, who announced the proposed changes, that the Government dare not face the antagonism of Mr. Holt and his sixty Liberal colleagues. He expressed the hope that the amendments he had suggested would "meet the wishes of the honourable members behind him," and it is acknowledged that if the Government had extended the session by a fortnight there would have been ample time for the consideration of all the provisions of the original Finance Bill.

And even if the grants to local authorities had to be sacrificed, why has the Government relieved the unearned incomes of the rich from the additional taxation foreshadowed? Ten million pounds are still raised by the taxation of food. Why was not a part, at least, of that burden lifted from the shoulders of the poor?

## MY TRUST.

Brave heart, be strong!

Loud let thy anthems swell,  
Tho' dark and rough and long  
The road on which thy path at midnight fell,  
Freed from the bonds thy soul itself shall shake  
And brooding clouds, when morning shall awake!

What is this life?

A strange, unequal scene,  
An intermittent strife,  
From morn to noon and e'en;  
The hopes of youth that scorned the wild east  
blast;  
Proud manhood's pride; while age comes creeping  
last!

It is but lent,

This life to lose we grieve,  
Not just for pleasure meant,  
But for the good for others we achieve;  
Thus is the secret of true pleasures known,  
When blessing other lives we bless our own!

So, firm and strong!

My course I'll still maintain  
And cheer it with a song,  
Tho' Fate at times assign my efforts vain;  
For human good I'll toil—not all for self—  
And blessing others I will bless myself!

J. BIRRELL.

## IGNORANT MAGISTRATES.

IMPOSE VINDICTIVE SENTENCE AND FIND IT INVALID.

MR. W. M. ADAMSON GOES TO GAOL.

### WIDESPREAD INDIGNATION AND HOME SECRETARY INSTITUTES INQUIRY.

It has been a frequent cause of comment that while Sir Edward Carson, Captain Craig, and other aristocrats may, with impunity, incite to the defiance of the Constitution, and foster civil war by drilling and arming their followers to resist the laws made in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the people, labour leaders who may only call on the workers to do something to improve their own condition by demanding the employing classes to hand over some of their ill-gotten gains are immediately clapped into gaol.

The latest to incur the displeasure of our merciful "administrators of justice" is Mr. William Murdock Adamson, the organiser for the Workers' Union in South Staffordshire, a popular Labour leader, a member of the Wolverhampton Trades Council.

While it will be noticed that nominally, the charge upon which he was convicted—and by no stretch of the imagination could the prosecution claim to have sustained their case—was a charge of common assault, we are inclined to believe that the crime for which he was really so cruelly and heavily penalised was the crime of having done his best to raise the conditions of the poor people amongst whom he was stationed.

The case arose out of a dispute which was proceeding at the works of Messrs. Cozens & Sons, at Walsall, and it was alleged that while picketing the works Mr. Adamson made use of abusive language to a man, George Haynes, 52, Lime Street, Walsall, and afterwards kicked him on the ankle.

#### Inconclusive Evidence.

Mr. H. H. Jackson, the solicitor for the complainant, in the course of a peculiarly weak statement, remarked that the alleged kick was "not, of course, of a very serious nature," which, compared with the magistrates' remark when imposing the penalty, is significant.

The evidence was equally weak. The plaintiff, under cross-examination by Mr. Randle Evans, solicitor for Mr. Adamson, made the remarkable admission that although Mr. Adamson was picketing the works he did not picket him. Yet he alleged that Mr. Adamson used vile language towards him and assaulted him. And it is also remarkable to note that the injury he sustained was not sufficient to prevent him playing cricket the same evening, and only caused him to limp slightly, and that he went back to work. He did not know whether the kick was accidental or not.

We would draw attention to the fact that whenever Mr. Evans attempted to draw out any statement as to the strike which was proceeding, and which might have thrown a totally different light on the affair, he was prevented by the clerk and the magistrate who took up an exceedingly biased attitude.

The witnesses were equally inconclusive. None of them, with the exception of the plaintiff, actually saw the offence, and he did not know whether it was accidental or not!

Dr. Shore described the nature of the injuries. Asked by Mr. Evans whether they could be caused otherwise than by a kick, he replied in the affirmative, and said that, from the size of the bruise, it might have been caused by a cricket ball if it had hit Haynes. The bruise was not severe enough to be caused by a heavy boot. He further stated that the fact of Haynes walking about from 1 p.m. (when the assault was alleged to have been committed) till 5.40, when the doctor examined the bruise would tend to make it worse.

#### The Defence.

Mr. Evans, in his speech for the defence, said this was a rather different case from where there was quarrelling between two workmen. Here they had Mr. Adamson, the head organiser of the Workers' Union for the district, charged with assault by one who was working while other men were out. Mr. Adamson had had four or five years' experience as organiser, and was the responsible party in this district, so that, looking at it for one moment from that point of view, it was unreasonable to think that he would be guilty of a practice of this nature. The defendant was simply picketing the works when he met Haynes and asked him to come out with the other men, and, of course, talking to him like that was quite justifiable, because one had to bear in mind that Mr. Haynes was a member of the Workers' Union, and Mr. Adamson naturally would speak to him about asking him to abstain from work. Mr. Adamson would tell them that he did not assault complainant, did not kick him, trip him, or do any injury whatever. He said he had this conversation with him and as Haynes walked away he accused Adamson of kicking him. Adamson said to him, "See what the policeman has to say about it." The policeman was about eight or nine feet away, so that it was rather peculiar if the defendant had deliberately committed an assault upon a man with the policeman three or four yards away. Haynes went up to the policeman and spoke to him, and Mr. Adamson also asked him if he had seen any assault. The

policeman replied, "This man makes the accusation." Continuing, Mr. Evans said he would call two witnesses who saw what did take place, and they would swear that no assault took place of any kind, and in view of the fact that Mr. Adamson was such a responsible party in this district he submitted that it was absurd to think he would do a thing like this.

Mr. Adamson, in evidence, bore out his solicitor's statement, and absolutely denied that he either used obscene language or kicked the man.

Other witness also denied that Mr. Adamson committed any assault. The policeman who was standing near by did not see any assault committed.

#### A Brutal Sentence.

Then came the surprise. The chairman of the magistrates, in giving their decision, said they considered that this was "a very aggravated assault, and we have decided to convict, and you will be fined £5 and costs, or the option of two months' hard labour."

When the statement of the solicitor for the complainant is considered—that the kick was, "of course, not of a serious nature," the prejudiced attitude of the magistrates will be perceived.

At this point it is interesting to note who the magistrates were. One was Mr. R. C. Thomas (an ironmaster), and the other Dr. Phillips, a medical man. It might also interest our readers if we point out that a short time ago Mr. Adamson, through the Workers' Union, was instrumental in compelling the firm with which Mr. Thomas is connected to grant an increase of wages. We give this to show that the bench by no means could be said to be impartial.

Mr. Adamson refused to pay a fine and thereupon admit that he was guilty of an offence which he had not committed. He would do the two months. The solicitor for the defence and the other parties thereupon left the court, and Mr. Adamson was taken below.

Here it must be noted that the punishment itself was totally in excess of the maximum stipulated in law. The maximum fine which can be imposed for such an offence is £5, including costs, and in default of payment this involves one month's imprisonment with or without hard labour.

It is apparent, therefore, that in their zeal for punishment the magistrates awarded a penalty far in excess of the maximum, both as regards the fine and the imprisonment.

#### "Funk!"

Whether the magistrates realised that the sentence was excessive, or whether they were seized with funk at the probable consequences of their action we do not know, but after everyone connected with the case had left the court Mr. Adamson was recalled and practically asked to pay the fine. This he refused to do, and then the magistrates adopted the extraordinary course of reducing the sentence to £5, including costs, or one month with hard labour. To say the least this was discourteous to the defending solicitor who was not given the opportunity of being present.

The fact that a whole afternoon passed before a summons was thought of is proof that there is more behind it, and the probabilities are that the masters have had something to do with it. We should like to know who found the money to carry on the case. It is certain that a man employed at a place where the employees were complaining of inadequate wages could not afford to carry on an expensive prosecution.

That it was a manufactured charge was proved to anyone who knew Mr. Adamson when they saw the allegation of indecent language. Mr. Adamson has never been known under any circumstances to use an obscene expression.

Great protest meetings have been held up and down the district, and the result has been that the Home Secretary has instituted an inquiry into the circumstances of the case.

Feeling is running high, particularly in the ranks of the Workers' Union, and it has required all the efforts of the men's leaders to prevent a strike. If Mr. Adamson is not released the possibilities are that we shall have to face another great industrial upheaval in the Black Country, with the men embittered by the knowledge that they must not expect justice from the men appointed to administer the law.

R.M.

The good Trade Unionist is the man who not only feels with his heart, but who also thinks with his head. The sympathetic strike may be all right in its way, but the scientifically organised strike, with a proper appreciation of the power of the enemy and a clear understanding of the object to be obtained, would prove much more effective.

## AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

What the Minimum Wage has done for the Chain Workers.

Opinions are to-day very divided as to the advantages or disadvantages to be derived from a minimum wage, the one predicting perennial happiness upon its introduction, the other—calamity.

In spite of all that political economists might say to the contrary the legal minimum established in the chain industry under the English Trades Boards Act, 1909, has proved itself to be an unqualified success.

The chain trade is divided into two sections. One is called the factory and the other the outwork. The factory section is composed entirely of males, in which the better qualities of chain are made, whereas the outwork section contains males and females, in which, generally speaking, the commoner qualities are produced. It is in the outwork section of the industry that the Wages Board has wrought such marked improvement.

The factory section, owing to one of the most perfect pieces of Trade Union organisation, has not been affected by the board, because the Trade Union has, since its inception, been able to introduce and hold steadfastly a living rate of wages. In the outwork section the inevitable middleman plays his part, and many people are of the opinion that it is attributable to him that wages are so terribly low.

Before the operations of the Trades Boards Act, hundreds of men worked as many as 60 and 70 hours per week for 12s. to 18s., whilst women and girls could not possibly earn more than 5s. or 6s. for the same number of hours. And this in a trade where the physical energy—to be exerted before a blazing furnace—was so enormous.

On the Chain Trade Board there are six employers, six representatives of the workers, two Government co-opted members, a chairman and secretary. The board meets, as often as occasion requires, to fix rates of wages or discuss any regulation or complaint which is considered to be of vital importance to the industry. Inspectors are responsible for seeing that the orders of the board are put into effect, and a fine up to £20 and £5 for every day upon which the offence is continued is fixed. A minimum time rate of 2½d. an hour, or 11s. 3d. for a 54 hour week, and minimum piece rates based on the time rate to yield at least 11s. 3d. in the case of female workers.

In the case of male workers a minimum rate of one pound for a 48 hour week (5d. an hour) on the smaller sizes of chain, rising up to a minimum rate of 30s. on the larger sizes. As in the case of the women workers piece rates were fixed to yield the worker at least the minimum time rate. Learners rates were also fixed for both sexes.

Last year another application was made to increase the minimum rates on the grounds of an increase in the cost of living, the smallness of the minimum, and to compensate for the increased efficiency of the worker. After considerable discussion the board agreed to raise the time rate for women workers from 2½d. an hour to 2¾d., and an advance on the piece rates of 10 per cent., bringing the minimum rate up to 12s. 4½d. A similar advance was also made in the men's rates.

Those who are constantly stating that higher wages ruin industry will find no data in the chain trade to support that contention. The prediction of the workers that the increases in wages would tend to expand the industry has proved to have been very well founded, for there are more chain-makers employed in the trade to-day than at any time in its history.

The administration of the Act has been considerably strengthened in the chain trade by the workers joining the Trade Union. A Trade Board without a Trade Union could not possibly be a success in this industry, and I fail to see that much progress can be achieved in any other unless the workers organise in order to secure all the benefits intended for them under the Act.

T. SITCH,  
International Metal Workers' Review.

## BLACKLEG UNIONS.

A Development Which Must be Carefully Watched.

The Trade Union movement in this country, as it is brought more openly into opposition to the employers' associations, will have to watch carefully for the development of blackleg Unions, whose function will be to put at the disposal of the employers a body of servile and unscrupulous workmen.

In several trades it is possible to find already the rudiments of these associations. In the catering trade, for instance, there are a number of organisations which would come under this heading. The Shipping Federation also has quite an army of willing blacklegs, which it can send to any district where a dispute is in progress.

During the prolonged struggle in the building trades several attempts have been made to organise blacklegs.

The peril of the "yellow" Unions, as our Continental comrades call them, is a very real one. In America, where the class lines are more clearly drawn and where capitalism is more brutal and blatant, the big trusts and combines not only organise their blackleg armies, but arm them as well.

Many of the so-called detective agencies are merely the private armies of huge industrial concerns. Towns like New York and Chicago are scoured for desperadoes who will not hesitate to shoot and kill. These gunmen are banded together and drafted to strike areas, there to overawe and crush the workers into submission.

We must see to it that such a condition of things is not brought about in this country.

## SHOULD JURYMEN BE PAID?

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE'S SIDE-SPLITTING REPORT.

PAYMENT REFUSED BY ONE VOTE.

Should jurymen be paid? This is the question which has agitated the town of Wolverhampton for a considerable time. The working people, who happen to be those who suffer most by having to give up their time and wages, have said emphatically "Yes," and some years ago they demanded, through the Trades Council, that the Town Council should sanction the payment of men summoned to serve on coroners' juries.

That was in 1911. The matter was referred to the General Purposes Committee to consider and report upon, and in the manner of General Purposes Committees the matter somehow was lost sight of. That, of course, is easily understood; it was a question of doing something for the working man. Now if it had been the question of another £400 a year for the Grammar School—!

Anyhow, although the working man is generally a long-suffering individual, his patience eventually became exhausted, and inquiries were again set on foot about the matter. Several juries had asked for payment, and the Coroner had referred them to the Town Council. The matter again came before the Trades Council, and Councillor Sharrocks, on their behalf, moved at the June meeting of the Town Council that the Council authorise the payment of 2s. per sitting to each person serving on a Coroner's jury in the borough. This also was referred to the General Purposes Committee, but only after Councillor Sharrocks had been assured of an early report.

### A Screamingly Funny Document.

At the July meeting of the Council, when the report was presented, the General Purposes Committee answered the question with an emphatic "No." In a screamingly funny document they gave their reasons. We have read and re-read this report, and the only conclusion we have been able to arrive at is that although the committee made use of a lot of involved language they really had nothing to say. The only advantage about the report we can suggest is that it provided work for the printers, unless, perhaps, it was intended to provide material for the comic papers. It might have been presented as a special issue of *Punch* but for the fact that the humour is not so subtle as that generally found in the premier humorous weekly.

The brightest gem in this side-splitting document was the following:

Your Committee think that if the Council sanctioned payment of fees for the services of jurymen there would be many who would not claim them, and many others to whom it would be a great inducement to undertake that office as often as occasion required.

Now we hardly know how to take the first part of this beautiful paragraph. Do the General Purposes Committee really think that the Trades Council were in the same playful mood when they made the application as the Committee evidently were when they drew up the report, and that though they asked for payment they did not really mean it? Or do they think that the working man is so well paid and so well fed that they really wouldn't take a fee even if they were pressed?

### Committee's Horrible Vision.

They hardly meant that, because they contradicted it in the latter half of the sentence. In the language of the street, they said, "Some might and some mightn't." They believe that while some would not accept a fee even at the point of the sword, there were others who would. Evidently the Committee had had a horrible vision of the coroner's office being besieged by an insistent mob anxious for the privilege of viewing dead bodies and receiving "two bob" into the bargain. The Committee certainly did not intend to institute a new profession of corpse inspecting.

This "report" was, as we have stated, pre-

sent to the Town Council, and apparently some of the members of the General Purposes Committee realised that there was something lacking, so they added to the gaiety of the occasion by bringing forth a lot of sloppy sentiment about "serving one's king and country" and "citizenship of a glaw-wias Empi-ah, on—er—which the—er—sun nevah sets."

While this sort of stuff might go down at a Tory meeting or a Tariff Reform League gathering, it was evidently out of place at the Town Council. Led by Councillor Sharrocks, Frost, and Bent, the General Purposes Committee were given a warm time by several speakers. Councillor Sharrocks had some pertinent things to say about the Coroner's salary and his attitude towards payment of jurymen. Councillor Frost, who seconded, said that 90 per cent. of the men summoned lost wages. Councillor Bent said that this was a matter of principle and righteousness, and on those grounds and justice for the workers he supported.

Councillor F. Evans would even go a lot farther than the Labour Party, but it was significant that he couldn't vote either way.

### What Alderman Bantock Thinks.

Alderman Bantock made one memorable remark: "I hope the Council will pass the resolution. The working man should be prepared to sacrifice something for his citizenship."

Councillor Mander deprecated the attack on the principle of payment. If in the higher service of the State members of Parliament were paid £400 a year, it was not easy to persuade working men to give of their time without recompense. There was general laughter at this, but it was evident the point had gone home. Even that youthful and most enthusiastic Tory, Councillor Clarkson, had a knock at the Council. "How," he asked, "can a working man at the minimum wage as fixed by the Council—24s. per week—sacrifice his time?"

### The Plural Vote.

After a lot of discussion a division was taken, the result being that the voting was equal. Thereupon the Mayor had another vote. He cast it for the Committee's report, and so by the plural vote of the Mayor the Council decided that jurymen must not be paid.

But not for long. Councillor Sharrocks has given notice to bring the matter forward again, and a different story may have to be told next time.

The following shows how the members voted:

#### For the Amendment.

FOR PAYMENT OF 2s. TO JURYMEN.

#### COUNCILLORS:

Beardmore,	Mander,
Beattie,	Moseley,
Bent,	Myatt,
Clark,	Sharrocks,
Clarkson,	Smith,
Coleman,	Tildesley,
Frost,	Walsh,
George,	Weaver,
Henn,	White,
Jeffs,	Willcock.
Jennings,	

#### For the Committee's Report.

AGAINST PAYMENT.

The Mayor.	Beckett,
ALDERMEN:	Deanesly,
Bantock,	Dickinson,
Craddock,	Gibson,
Gibbons,	Hodgson,
Hamp,	Hughes,
Johnson,	Jones,
Mander,	Marston,
Marston,	Painter,
Plant,	Pincock,
COUNCILLORS:	A. C. Skidmore.
Amphlett,	

On being declared equal, the Mayor gave his casting vote against payment.

There were nine aldermen present, and it will be noticed that eight of them voted against payment. Aldermen, of course, are not responsible to the electorate.

### GOD GIVE US MEN.

God give us men! A time like this demands Great hearts, strong minds, true faith, and willing hands:

Men whom the lust of office does not kill,  
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy,  
Men who possess opinions and a will,  
Men who have honour, men who will not lie;

For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,

Their large professions and their little deeds,  
Wrangle in selfish strife, lo, Freedom weeps,  
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps.

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### P.S.A. AND BROTHERHOOD NOTES.

**Brotherhood Campaign.**—In connection with the "Campaign to every Man" the first of a series of united meetings was held on Sunday, July 5, at the close of the evening service in Waterloo Road Baptist Church. Notwithstanding the inclement weather there was a good attendance. Mr. J. Y. Carter (Chairman of the Campaign Committee) presided, and was supported by the Rev. E. Holt (President of Wolverhampton Federation), Rev. A. B. Alwick, B.A., B.D., Messrs. G. Tarratt, (Secretary), J. H. Badger, and Frank J. Tustin. After a few explanatory remarks by Mr. G. Tarratt, an address was delivered by the Rev. E. Holt, who said that Christian people had been too long on the defensive; it was now time to attack. He recognised that whilst there were a great many bad men inside the church there were also a great many good men outside the church. There was a finer spirit in the world to-day than there had ever been before. He declared that in religion was found the highest fellowship on earth. The Brotherhood Movement had its origin in the teaching of Jesus Christ. He deplored the indifference of the middle and upper classes, and asserted that they were in greater need of evangelistic work than the poorer classes. The bad housing of the people was a spiritual evil, and we could never remove a spiritual evil by material conditions. Man was responsible for bad conditions, and if we were to reach the highest moral conditions the Spirit of God must dwell amongst us. A vote of thanks to the speaker and others who had assisted, concluded a very successful gathering.

**Progress.**—The number of societies affiliated to the local Federation is being added to each month, and judging from the reports of the organising secretary (Mr. Badger), it is quite reasonable to assume that ere long every P.S.A. and Brotherhood in and around Wolverhampton will be linked up. And not only existing organisations—but efforts are being made to form brotherhoods in districts hitherto unorganised in this respect. On Sunday, July 12, a small party of "enthusiasts" paid a visit to the village of Swindon, distributed campaign literature *ad lib.*, and enlisted the sympathy and promise of active support from several prominent Nonconformist workers. It is anticipated that a brotherhood will be initiated there early in September.

**To Secretaries.**—I would like to remind secretaries and others who have promised to send me reports of meetings and also information of general interest respecting the work of their own P.S.A. or Brotherhood, that a few lines in this direction, if only to prove that they are anxious to redeem their promises, would be appreciated by  
F.J.T.

### "IF."

#### Some Reflections on the London Builders' Disputes.

The closing stages of the magnificent struggle of the London building trade workers against the servile document which the master builders wanted them to sign should teach the workers a number of lessons.

In the first place, it should bring to their notice the sad weakness of Trade Unionism in this country. In the second, it should give them some knowledge of the forces which are opposed to them; and the necessity for closer combination, the building up of the membership of the Union and of a central Trade Union war chest should have been made quite clear to them.

If the Trade Unions involved had been federated with a strong financial reserve the finish of this lock-out would probably have been different. If, in addition, they had had an information bureau, with a knowledge of the enemy's resources; if they had previously considered and amended the weakness of some of the Unions affiliated to the London Building Industries Federation; if—and it is a really formidable "if"—the Trade Union movement of the country had rallied to the support of the building workers in London as it did to the transport workers in Dublin—then an undoubted victory would have closed the struggle.

The weakness of British Trade Unionism can and must be remedied. Let us take an example from the Trade Union movement of Germany, where to quote our comrade Baumeister, a strike never fails "through want of money."

Let us set our house in order, realise the strength of the enemy we have to face, and prepare accordingly. Let this be the last of the struggles of privation and suffering and the beginning of the organised and well-informed campaign of victory.

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