

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

VOL. 1. No. 2. JUNE, 1913.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 17,000.

[POST FREE, ONE SHILLING PER ANNUM.]

OLYMPIA PICTURE PALACE,

THORNLEY STREET,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

7 Twice Nightly 9
Matinee every Saturday at 3.

Only the **Best Pictures and Music** are presented at the **Olympia**.

ENTIRE CHANGE OF PICTURES
on Mondays and Thursdays.

People's Popular Prices Seats may be booked
6d. 4d. 3d. 2d.

BRITISH WORKMEN

can always rely on

GOOD PICTURES

being shown at the

STRAND PICTURE PALACE,

WHITMORE REANS.

Prices of Admission: 2d. 3d. 4d. 6d.

The finest-equipped **PICTURE PALACE**
IN THE MIDLANDS, is the

COLISEUM

DUDLEY ROAD.

CONTINUOUS from 6-30 to 10-45.

Popular Prices: 2d. 3d. 4d. 6d.

ALL SOULS' CHURCH,
Park Road West.

Rev. J. A. SHAW, M.A.

Services 11 a.m. and 6-30 p.m.

Free. Progressive and Unsectarian.

Do You Wish To Enjoy Yourself?

I.L.P. SOCIALS,

Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Good Company! Great Fun! Little Charge!

I.L.P. ROOMS, DUDLEY STREET.

(Over Collins' Boot Shop.)

TIN PLATE WORKERS' SOCIETY.

Office:—EXCHANGE CHAMBERS,
EXCHANGE ST., WOLVERHAMPTON.
Benefits: Unemployment, Sick, Dispute, Funeral,
Pension.

Membership, 1,000; Funds, £5,000.

Claims paid on Friday Evenings from
7-30 to 8-30.

C. SMITH, Secretary.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF
ENGINEERS.

BRANCH MEETINGS held on Saturday Evenings
as follows:—

No. 1—TOWN HALL HOTEL.

" 2—VINE HOTEL.

" 3—LABOUR ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

" 4—LABOUR ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

35, QUEEN SQUARE, WOLVERHAMPTON.

TO OBTAIN THE MINIMUM WAGE

For Labourers, Join the Gasworkers,
Brickmakers, and General Labourers' Union.
Membership, 3d. per week. Benefits for Funeral,
Accident, and Unemployment. Apply for Mem-
bership in No. 3 Branch to J. BELLIS, Secre-
tary, 37, Bell Street.

Branch Meetings alternate Saturdays, Molyneux
Hotel, 7-30 p.m.

LOOK OUT FOR THE FAIR LIST OF
BAKERS' SHOPS
IN THIS PAPER NEXT MONTH.

OPERATIVE BAKERS' SOCIETY.

Local Secretary, J. FENN,
59, Merridale Street, West, Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Branch National Union
Boot and Shoe Operatives.

WANTED

All Best Operatives of both sexes, likewise Boot
Repairers to join above-named Union.
MEMBERSHIP, 4s. 4d. FUNDS, £154,841 15s.
Full particulars from H. Moreton, 129, North Street
C. Harper, 234, Waterloo Road.

READ "THE DAILY CITIZEN."

A BAD BLOW FOR WOLVERHAMPTON.

HOW THE LIBERALS HELP TO KILL MIDLAND INDUSTRY.

LLOYD GEORGE—QUICK CHANGE ARTISTE.

It seems but a short time ago since Mr. Lloyd George, that "Comparatively Poor Man" (as he described himself to the Marconi Committee)—a leader of that band of saints who call themselves Liberals, who in pious accents profess that their one object of living is to deliver "the people" from under the heel of the oppressor—wept tender tears over the masses at Limehouse and at the Tabernacle, and denounced the bloated capitalists and landlords in terms that raised hopes in the breasts of those who followed him, and spread consternation among those very few capitalists and landlords who were not initiated in the fact that it was all a part of the game of deluding the people.

It seems such a short time that to some it has been hardly credible that Lloyd George could so soon dance to another tune, and by so doing prove the danger he—and all that he stands for—is to the working classes throughout the whole country.

That he is a danger is proved by the attitude he took up at the time of the railway strike and the events which followed, culminating in the notice of the railway companies that railway freightage rates will be increased on July 1st.

It will still be vividly remembered how the underpaid and overworked railway employees demanded an increase on their miserable wages; how they were refused by the great railway combines; and how they held up the whole country by striking to enforce their just demands; and it will never be forgotten how this spotless Liberal Government actually sent out armed troops to shoot down those strikers at the request of the railway magnates—how they held property to be more sacred than human life.

That railway strike so struck terror to the hearts of this Government that, forgetting all their democratic professions, they immediately went cap-in-hand and promised if the "dear, kind railway directors" would only give way to their servants they would bring in a Bill to allow them to recoup themselves at the expense of the railway-using public.

The time eventually came for the introduction into Parliament of the promised Railways Bill, and we have not forgotten how the Comparatively Poor Chancellor threw away the last vestige of his concern for "the masses," and said that it was just and proper that these increased charges upon the employing classes should be passed on to the consumer, and admitted in effect the principle that all the so-called beneficial legislation of his must be paid for in full by the people whom it was ostensibly intended to benefit.

And now the blow has fallen. In spite of the efforts of the Labour Party to get a time limit of five years—it was even carried in Committee—in spite of their attempts to get a minimum "wage" of 21s. a week for railway workers, this "People's Government" insisted on carrying out their "pledge," and would not deviate one hair's breadth from their infamous intentions, and the Bill became law.

The Lesson of Horseley Fields.

THE BLOW HAS FALLEN, and Wolverhampton will know it to its cost. We have already seen the once prosperous district of Horseley Fields ruined by railway rates previous to this latest imposition. We have seen works dismantled and removed to the seaboard; we have seen that district depopulated by the removal of its best skilled workers; we have seen prosperity give place to abject poverty. We have seen the small shopkeepers struggle on for years in a vain and pathetic attempt

to keep the wolf from the doors, until ultimately they too had to give up the struggle and swell the already great army of unemployed. And perhaps the hardest case of all was the unskilled labourer, thrown out of work because he could not be taken with the other skilled workers.

All this happened owing to excessive railway rates, and so it will not have to be very strongly borne upon the people of this town what the effect of this latest Liberal measure will be.

The Passing-On Process.

We pointed out in our last issue how these burdens are passed on. We showed how, when any new taxation was levied, the inevitable result was that it gradually filtered down to the worker, very often with substantial additions.

In the same manner these new railway rates will be passed on for the worker to pay. If the manufacturer has been getting a 10 per cent. profit he will not pay the extra 4 per cent. on the cost of carriage and be content with a reduced profit. What he will do will be to pass it on to the retailer—and probably add a bit more in the process, say another 1 per cent., making 5 per cent.—who in turn will pass it on again to the consumer, with another addition.

An Illustration.

In an interview recently with a Press representative a local grocer gave an instance. He pointed out that—

The present railway rate for a ton of tea is 36s. 8d. Four per cent. additional represents 1s. 4½d., and this amount, to be recovered exactly, would have to be split over 2,240lbs. of tea.

That means to say that in passing on this increase on the cost of carriage of tea—if the grocers do decide to pass it on—taking the lowest possible increase, a farthing per pound, the increased profit to the grocers after paying the extra charge would be £2 5s. 3½d. While it must be said that this individual grocer said he did not think this would happen, even supposing this does not occur in the case of tea, this illustration shows how the principle of passing on is applied, and how it is possible for the manufacturer or retailer to reap many times over that which he spends out of the pockets of the workers, who are the largest consumers. And to show that there is a tendency to do this we quote the following extracts from the local Conservative newspaper:—

Anxiety is felt by Liverpool traders. Representatives of the sugar and tobacco trades said that *any increased cost of conveyance would ultimately be thrown upon the consumer.*

Mr. Robert Hudson, of Messrs. Stokes and Hudson, trimmings manufacturers, of Derby, said: "*Eventually the public will have to pay some share. We are bound to get some of it back again.*"

Mr. W. T. Parker, secretary of the Bristol Provision Merchants' Association: "*If the advances are large enough the traders will pass them on to the consumer.*"

A Midland coal merchant stated that every farthing of the higher rates *will have to be paid by the customer.* Bedstead, metal, copper, and engineering works will all be severely hit.

There is general agreement in Birmingham that the proposed increase of railway traffic rates will inflict great injury on all the local trades. *To the iron trade the scheme threatens disaster.* Already high railway rates

(Continued on page 2.)

S. M. CO. SHIRTS, JACKETS, OVERALLS,

Etc., all made by

TRADE UNION LABOUR.

BLUE JACKETS or OVERALLS,
2/6, 2/11, 3/6.

BLUE OVERALLS with Bib and Brace,
2/6, 2/11, 3/6.

BROWN OVERALLS with Bib and Brace 2/6.

44 VICTORIA ST.

Between Skinner St. and Salop St.

ARE YOU SATISFIED

that you share in all that is provided for you?

HAVE YOU THE BEST

of food, clothing, and all other necessaries?

DO YOU CONTROL

the Business that supplies you with these commodities, and share in all its advantages, or

DO YOU MAKE CERTAIN

that all the Goods you purchase are produced and distributed under conditions which you yourself are fighting for?

These are pointed questions, but consistency demands an answer to them. If it is in the negative, your remedy is to join the

Co-operative Society,

At STAFFORD STREET,

or any of its BRANCHES.

where every facility is offered to all workers for the supply of their wants.

The Society's Goods are the best, purest, full weight, and cheapest, and every purchaser has the full assurance that he is faithfully supporting an institution that gives the full

TRADE UNION CONDITIONS.

Members can

Buy or Build THEIR OWN HOUSES

through the Society with the rent they are paying; this obviates the necessity for

Tenants' Defence Leagues.

Anyone over 16 can join by paying 4d. down.

Go to

J. W. EVANS, 15, Queen St.,

for your

Pipes, Tobacco, and Cigarettes.

WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE.

SEWING MEETINGS

Every Wednesday afternoon from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, followed by Branch Meeting at 7-30 same evening.

Labour Assembly Rooms, 35, Queen Square.

WOLVERHAMPTON LABOUR PARTY.

A

GRAND WHIST DRIVE

Will be held at the

Labour Assembly Rooms,

On THURSDAY, JUNE 12th,

Commencing at 8 p.m.

TICKETS SIXPENCE EACH.

and particulars of prizes, etc., obtainable from J. WHITTAKER, 35, Queen Square, Wolverhampton, also from Branch Secretaries.

READ "THE DAILY CITIZEN."

A BAD BLOW FOR WOLVERHAMPTON

(Continued from Page 1.)

have driven many iron export firms to the coast, and the only successful ones remaining are those providing material for certain Birmingham trades. The Midland galvanised sheet trade has been practically destroyed by railway rates. Merchants concerned with several branches of the metal and hardware trades state that a 4 per cent. increase in traffic rates means the loss of all their profit in several commodities, and therefore all this extra cost must be charged to the consumer.

Enough has been quoted to show that the local grocer mentioned is unduly optimistic. What has happened before will happen again. Wolverhampton, being situated in the heart of the Midlands, will be among the most hardly hit. Both in her exports and imports she will have to pay.

And we may expect to see more works dismantled, more unemployed work-people, higher food prices, high rates and rents—both of which last we have already. The outlook for the Capital of the Black Country is very black indeed.

All this is due to the greatest Progressive Government of modern times. Where is their sympathy for the masses?

An Act was placed on the Statute Book by the late William Ewart Gladstone in 1844 to the effect that within three months from a given date the railways could be taken over by the Government. If this Comparatively Poor Chancellor had any real thought for the people, he would have told the companies that unless the just demands of the railwaymen were granted, then the Government would take over the undertaking on behalf of the State. There is no doubt that the companies would have been glad to concede the men's demands.

And the only true solution of the question is the nationalisation of the railways. Here we have a great national undertaking being run solely for the profit of a comparatively few people caring nothing what hardships they inflict on the great mass of the community so long as their profits are safe. And when the Government of the country plays into their hands as they did in the present instance they become a menace to the whole of the nation.

It is a well-known fact that the small increases have been more than met by the great increases in revenue since the railway strike, and that there was no need for legislative interference, except the companies' desire to pass the burden on to the worker.

Every day sees a greater demand for the nationalisation of the railways, and yet the Government, in face of this demand, plays with the question to the detriment of the people's welfare. But the latest imposition will so bear upon the people—and the people of Wolverhampton in particular—that when they have the opportunity they will help to replace this retrograde Government with men who will see that the railways shall be run in their interests, by sending along Mr. Walkden, who is admitted on all hands to be one of the greatest authorities on railways in the country, and is wholeheartedly in favour of the Government taking them over and running them in the interests of the people.

A Miserable Record.

"We are pledged to pass this Bill," said the Cabinet. Yes, and that pledge was made to a combine, whose sole object is to exploit the public. What about the innumerable pledges they made to the public? Did they not promise to improve the lot of the worker? Have they carried it out? What have they done?

They have taxed the wages of the poorest class of workers by an unsound Insurance Act.

They have promised a free breakfast table, but still Britain's breakfast table is one of the most heavily taxed in the world.

They promised a land scheme, but up to now they have been too cowardly to introduce one.

They threw out a Housing scheme simply because it was introduced by another party.

They have done nothing to solve the unemployment question, or to prepare for the coming slump in trade.

WORDS OF WELCOME.

Dr. MARION PHILLIPS (Women's Labour League).

I am delighted on behalf of the Women's Labour League to be able to greet your new paper, the *Wolverhampton Worker*. It is a need of every town to have a paper which puts forward the workers' views, especially where the paper puts the women's views as well as men's. In our Labour movement we are appealing to both men and women, to mothers as well as fathers, because our ideals are based on our belief that a free and happy nation can only exist where men and women are free and equal, where home life is blessed by comradeship, and poverty preys no longer on the workers of the world. I wish you all success.

ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., writes congratulating the Wolverhampton Labour Party on its enterprise in publishing the *Wolverhampton Worker*. In the great fight for the establishment of more humane social and economic conditions for the wage-earning population, and for securing the legitimate share of national and local representation to which the number of the working-classes entitles them, the assistance of the Press is absolutely indispensable. He trusts the local venture may have a successful career and act as an effective supplement to our national Labour organ.

J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.

One of the most hopeful signs of our movement at present is the way in which Labour papers are being multiplied—from the national daily to the local monthly. To the latest of these—the *Wolverhampton Worker*—I bid cordial welcome, and wish for it a long and useful career as a fighting propagandist.

WILL CROOKS, M.P.

Your paper will keep Labour's memory fresh upon things that matter. A tired, overworked man or woman soon forgets when things brighten up a bit. The prevention of sorrow is a life's duty to those who think. I know the *Wolverhampton Worker's* motto will be "Lest we forget."

GEO. H. BARNES, M.P.

Please allow me to offer your new Labour venture the best of good luck. There is room for all who engage in the work on the Press on behalf of Labour. Local events have to be dealt with in the light of local knowledge and with local colouring.

ARTHUR PETERS (National Agent, Labour Party).

I am delighted to learn that the Trades and Labour Council are to possess their own monthly organ. Welcome to the *Wolverhampton Worker*. Let every one do his or her duty in making it a complete success. It will prove an excellent medium for spreading the policy of our Party. I can only wish for it a long and honourable career. Good luck!

T. F. RICHARDS.

My earnest hope and heartfelt wish is for the success of your venture, and I sincerely hope that Mr. Walkden will receive as much sterling loyalty and continued good faith and support as I received from my friends in Wolverhampton. On that occasion, be it remembered, to the credit of the West, we increased our poll. Labour advanced. May it ever continue!

(Continued from previous column.)

that unemployment worse in a town which is entirely dependent on railways.

By the passing of the Railways Bill, they have struck a death blow at Wolverhampton's industry.

What a record! It is about the most miserable record of any Government of modern times. And yet this Liberal Party, who have made a mess of practically everything they have taken up, have the audacity to put forward a candidate in opposition to Labour in the very town they have done their best to kill.

The electors of Wolverhampton will give him short shrift when the time does come.

And it must be remembered that the other leading light of Liberalism, Mr. G. R. Thorne, M.P., who "represents" East Wolverhampton, was so undecided as not to be able to make up his mind whether to vote for or against 21s. per week for railwaymen.

JOTTINGS.

Just a word of thanks to those of our helpers who so kindly distributed the last edition.

Unfortunately our candidate is not in a position to charter special trains to take them to Slocombe, nor, as we have no political clubs, can he renovate one free gratis.

A local prominent Tariff Reform newspaper recently, commenting upon increased railway rates, stated that the consumer would pay.

It is, of course, a totally different matter with a tax upon imports. Then the producer pays and not the consumer. I don't think!

Apropos the recent rack-renting imposition, a local gentleman named Quilliam, who, to give his official occupation, is agent for Mr. Max Muspratt, and a University graduate, to boot, wrote to one of our contemporaries that rent-raising was not a moral but an economic question.

The members of the Labour Party who have not had the advantages of a College course of studies are very thankful, and no doubt the whole of our readers are quite reconciled to the increases now they have such a lucid explanation.

Whilst upon the question of housing, I wonder how many of our readers knew that a very short time ago there was a scandal locally, in which an alderman (whose professed political creed is Toryism), the Health Committee, and some houses not a dozen miles from Southampton-street, were included.

Of course, the local Press was mum.

Snobbishness, far more than superstition, is the religion of weak minds.

I notice that we have been treated to some more funny stories, such as a golden monument to "My countryman, God bless him." I wonder if the author means to suggest the Chancellor should be under it.

Anyway, it would be a most fitting and proper shrine for Liberal politicians to worship at.

Another rib-tickler is the one that the Labour councillors were the means of the Corporation employees not receiving the minimum wage of 24s. earlier.

How powerful these Labour men are! Three Labour councillors, out of a total of forty-eight, stopping the forty-five others from rushing headlong to ruin in granting a minimum wage of 24s.

It was at the same meeting when a Labour councillor proposed a minimum of 30s. weekly for Corporation clerks.

Did the Funny Man press it? No. There are not sufficient clerks to affect an election.

Possibly he had that tired feeling similar to when he went to hear a Parliamentary debate and had to be wakened to catch his train.

I should think our readers down the East, after the recent strike, are beginning to realise that the emancipation of the workers, will have to be accomplished by the workers themselves.

A little help is worth loads of sympathy. Fancy asking for resolutions when the kiddies and wives are starving, as one Liberal councillor did.

It is no disgrace to be poor, but it might as well be.

Don't take your politics from any newspaper, think them out for yourself.

I have frequently had the remark passed to me lately that the local Conservative newspaper gives the best Labour reports. I will leave my readers to judge.

Would any of our readers care to become a peer? Should this meet the eye of any who have aspirations in that direction, a very simple and effective method is as follows:—Forward a large subscription to either the Liberal or Conservative Party funds, then sit down and twiddle your thumbs. It is surprising how it works.

THE EDITOR'S POST BAG

A WELCOME.

To the Editor of "The Wolverhampton Worker."

Sir,—May I congratulate you on the first issue of the *Worker*? I am pleased to see the Labour Party is bringing out a journal that will advocate the improving of the workers by agitating for increased wages and less hours of labour, and the feeding and clothing of the hungry and naked children.

Though we are continually being told by certain people that there is no misery and want, nevertheless we know that is not the case, and that there are numbers of men wanting work who cannot get it.

Sir Edward Henry (Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis), in his annual report for 1911, said that no fewer than 625 people committed suicide; 545 others attempted to take their lives, and that hundreds of men and women can be seen any night sleeping on the Thames Embankment, London Bridge, or other parts of London, because they have no other place to rest in.

Surely it is high time that something was done to put a stop to this misery and suffering of men and women in the wealthiest city in the world! And this state of things, to a more or less degree, appertains all over this great country of ours. Here in Wolverhampton we have this problem. Where is this brotherhood of men we hear so much of?

I hope the *Wolverhampton Worker* will take its stand in the fight for better things, and that it will be the means of assisting to hasten the glorious time when wrongs shall cease and right prevail, and the condition of the workers shall become a happy and contented one.

WILLIAM SHARROCKS.

16, Franchise-street, Wolverhampton.

CONSCRIPTION AND COMPULSORY CLOSING.

To the Editor of "The Wolverhampton Worker."

Sir,—Is it true that at the Agricultural Hall meeting Alderman Price Lewis said he was against compulsory military service because it would be "an unjustifiable interference with individual freedom"?

I find it hard to believe that he did use those words. Does he now mean that one section of the community should have individual freedom, but not shopkeepers?

He also believes in the Shops Act, which forbids the sale of tea on Thursday, but allows the sale of beer and spirits at public-houses.

One of the reasons he gives against us is the question of those employed in shops. But our League strongly upholds the assistants' Sunday and a week-day holiday (not half a day).

Fancy men saying that they will stop the sale of tobacco at a tobacconist shop, but allow it to be sold at hotels and public-houses.

We say that people should be masters in their own house.—Yours etc., C. T. SHAW
(The Non-compulsory Closing League and Shopkeepers' Association).

53, Worcester-street, Wolverhampton.

IN LABOUR'S CAUSE.

Typographical Society Secretary retires after Honourable Service.

A memorable event in the annals of printerdom has recently taken place. Mr. George Broadhead has relinquished the post of secretary to the Wolverhampton Branch of the Typographical Association, having held office for the extended term of 25 years, and members of the craft and friends gathered together at the Town Hall Hotel to signalise the occasion. A purse of gold had been subscribed, and it was the pleasing duty of the president (Mr. A. Wynn) to make the presentation, paying a hearty tribute to Mr. Broadhead's past labours.

Mr. Broadhead was held in high esteem by everybody with whom he came in contact, and possessed the best of credentials. He had long been known as a courteous and painstaking official, and by his foresight and tact menacing perils had oft-times been overcome. He took over the work at a critical period, when conflict raged and Trade Unionism was not so healthy as it is now.

Notwithstanding, during his tenure of office the society's local membership had made great numerical strides—from 30 to 130 somewhere about represented the actual growth. The hours of labour had been considerably reduced, and wages had appreciably increased. When the subject of our sketch assumed the secretarial rôle the working hours were 65, now they are approximately 50. These improvements and better conditions have not been obtained without an expenditure of great effort and sacrifice, and the secretary has borne the brunt of it.

About 1886 and later trying times were experienced by the branch, and its leaders were at that period subjected to an excess of unrestrained criticism from harshly-disposed employers. The employers have come round handsomely since then, and to-day there is scarcely a master printer in this locality who is unwilling to pay the standard wage demanded by the association. Great progress has been recorded, it is true, but still there is room for more expansion. We hope the Typographical Association will soon be able to persuade all employers in the town and district to acknowledge the union, and to engage only society men.

Mr. Broadhead has become a superannuated member, and we trust he may long be spared to enjoy a retirement so well earned.

VICTORY!

Tenants Win on County Court Summonses.

Horses, oxen, have a home
When from daily toil they come;
Household dogs, when the wind roars,
Find a home within the doors;
Asses, swine, have litter spread,
And with fitting food are fed,—
All things have a home but one,
Thou, O Englishman, hast none.—*Shelley.*

It will be remembered that summonses were filed in the Wolverhampton County Court against several tenants who had valiantly resisted the imposition of the local Shylocks.

They were to have been dealt with on Monday, May 26, but a few days previously the landlords, through their lawyers, agreed to accept the old rent and to waive the claim for the increase.

Our advice was "Don't pay increased rents." These tenants refused to pay; they have not paid, and, further, the claim has been withdrawn.

Victory is on the side of those tenants who have resisted the increase. Are you paying? If so, why?

Do not be misled by the report which appeared in the local Press. The tenants won, and the landlords climbed down with the best grace they could.

* * *

DON'T PAY! That advice was given before we met the "Coward Landlords," cowards who refused to meet the women to discuss their unjust proposals to raise rents, but who bully and threaten women with pains and penalties in the shape of Bailiffs and Eviction if it is not paid.

DON'T PAY! That advice was still given after the tenants had met the muzzled landlords, when only one could speak on their behalf, and all the others were gagged, while he put forward a case that was bad, because the whole case was not put, therefore making the rest of it untrue.

DON'T PAY! That advice is still given now the Rack-renting Landlords are taking the unusual course of County Court proceedings.

Some of the landlords we met are prepared to make a compromise. No compromise can be made short of the withdrawal of all notices.

Landlords I have met who are not members of the Property Owners Association admit that the demand is unjust.

Nine thousand notices were sent out for increased rents, and a large number have refused to pay. Threats were made that bailiffs would be put in possession, but in no instance has the threat been carried out. Why? A prominent bailiff of the town has told me that he refused to distrain for increased rent, and that is practically the position at present.

Are you downhearted? Do you intend to play into the hands of the Blood-suckers?

The water-carriage system is about to be installed, and the Town Council are about to make a present of £2 10s. 0d. of your money to the landlord who has to put it into his house, and to the landlord who has got it already put in his water rate is to be reduced from 10s. to 5s.

"The Landlord's Case," as put forward by their Lawyer champion was bad; rates had gone up, he said, and rents must go up to meet it, and to illustrate it, he chose the low water mark of rates for 1907 or 1908, namely 6s. 11d. in the £, and compared them with this year's rate. If he had taken—as he ought to have taken—the high water mark of 1905, the rates were then 10s. 1d., and had gone down to 6s. 11d. in the year he named. Therefore, the 5s. a week house paid 17s. a year less in rates, and they could have reduced the rent to 4s. 9d., and then have been in pocket to the extent of 4s. a year; and the 7s. 6d. house could have been reduced to 6s. 9d.

Did they do it? Did 9,000 notices of reduction of rent get sent out that year? Not likely! "Rents did go down," they say, but where the rents went down it was for such a class of house that the house itself ought to have gone down instead.

Is it not time that the housing question was taken up by yourselves? Will you always be content to be at the mercy of others when you can alter it if you will? If it is ever to be done you must fight now, and fight till you win.

G. LAWLEY.

TENANTS STILL SUCCESSFULLY DEFY LANDLORDS.



Photo by permission of the "Daily Sketch."

Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P. (President, Tenants' League, and President of the Wolverhampton Trades Council), Councillor Walsh (Treasurer), and Mr. George Lawley, who has worked so hard for the League, and who contributes the excellent articles on Tenants' Defence which appeared in the past and the present issue. Inset: (a) Mr. Speed (secretary, Property Owners); (b) Mr. Feibusch (ringleader).

A BUSY MONTH.

The members of the Tenants' Defence League, numbering considerably over 1,000, have, since the successful meeting held in the Empire Palace, taken a complete grip of the town by forming five committees or stations, with chairmen, secretaries, and committees. Being fully alive to the position held by the Property-Owners' Association, they are still working like Trojans, and consequently two great mass meetings have been held in the Market Place, the attendance at both meetings numbering from 2,000 to 3,000 people, at which fine fighting speeches were delivered by Mrs. Sproson, Rev. J. A. Shaw, Coun. Walsh, Coun. Mitchell (of Stafford), Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P., Mr. J. E. Didridge, Mr. A. G. Walkden (prospective candidate for Wolverhampton West), and others.



J. BELCHER (Sec. Tenants' League).

As in the case of the Empire meeting, great enthusiasm for the cause of tenants' defence was manifested, and the determination of the tenants not to pay the imposition was made very clear. Withal, the meetings were quite orderly, and the speeches were listened to in a manner which is seldom seen at open-air meetings.

Many meetings have followed rapidly in succession, notably Dudley-road Council Schools, where the fiery indignation of the tenants reached its zenith, taxing the officials of the League in the highest degree in restraining them from riotous

visitation to the Councillors' and Property-Owners' residences.

At this point we may mention the welcome greeting given to the Rev. Mayland upon the Tenants' Defence League platform in the above Council Schools. The rev. gentleman, in a short, pithy, and pointed speech, urged the vast audience to fight on against the iniquitous demands of property-owners in general, followed by the fine, discriminating oratory and logic of Mr. Lawley. The meeting was a fitting tribute to the fine generalship of the chairman, Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P.

Truly the autocratic soul must be a "way of unfathomable windings," considering a remark I once overheard, viz., "That the working-classes were a demmed nuisance, don't-cher-no."

No wonder the poor tenants are rising up with power, and placing the fear of God in the hearts of these modern Shylocks—so-called British landlords.

I confess logic is conspicuous by its absence in raising wages in order to pay an increased rent: verily it leads us to nowhere. Hence the vigorous campaign about to be entered into against insubstantial dwellings, and to insist on the bringing into operation the Housing of the Working Classes Act in this town of Wolverhampton.

The number of persons per acre in a town should be the right number equally distributed, and the minimum of room should be a sufficiency of room; in fact, more room is required to breathe safely. Minima, like averages, are exceedingly misleading when used in connection with human life, and they should always be treated with every caution.

Apologising for this little digression, I pass on to the meeting held under the above auspices in Bingley-street Council Schools. A very large number attended considering the inclemency of the weather; and a meeting of a very high

character was held. We had the pleasure of listening to the telling speech of Coun. Hickin, also to the castigation delivered by the Rev. J. A. Shaw against the meagre reports of one local paper, the *Express and Star*, which was applauded.

Not content, the tenants again foregathered in Leicester-square, Whitmore Reans, a great intelligent audience greeting the various speakers. Mrs. Sproson was again to the front, ably supported by Mr. A. J. Weaver, Mr. Williams, Mr. Sproson, and the General Secretary, the applause being heard for a considerable distance.

There is another link, to mention which finishes the endless chain encompassing our town, "Park Village," where three fine mass meetings have been held. Speeches were delivered in a capable manner showing capacity of handling the problem of the Housing Question. Much has been done in this district by the enthusiastic work of Mr. Fellows.

The ideas (now emanating from this vast co-operation) are fructifying, and coming events of a startling nature may be anticipated in the near future. When we consider the incapacity of our present Councillors, and their culpable negligence, it is emphatically shown that the imperative needs of the people require men endowed with wisdom and justice in the Council Chamber to bring into operation those powers with which they are endowed, without distinction or class prejudice.

SIDNEY BELCHER.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED.

ADVERTISER, age 48, wants Work, Painter by trade. Could find the work that wants doing for any Landlord who owns Houses. No objection to doing those not been done for years, or those that have been done lately for higher rents. Only desire for work is to keep alive and improve the appearance of my native town.—Klein Bright.

THE LABOUR LEADER says:

"You shall not touch the Food of the People."

BLAKEMORE'S, LTD.

Are "THE" People For
THE FOOD.

And they touch it better than anyone else.

READ THIS—NOW.

It Concerns You Personally. ::

A TWENTY YEARS' CUSTOMER WRITES:—

"I do like your Bread because it is so different from ordinary baker's Bread. No matter how thin you slice it, it does not fall to pieces. But the finest feature is its Flavour. So tempting is it that my children and myself prefer it to all others."

Could you have a Finer Testimony
to the Incomparable Qualities of

LUCE'S BREAD—THE BEST OF ALL,

Than this actual Remark from a Satisfied Customer.
MAY I SEND YOU A SAMPLE LOAF TO-DAY?

Enterprise Bakeries, :: ::
Dunstall, Wolverhampton.

WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL OF COMMERCE, 6, Waterloo-road. Tele. 114.
Principal S. CARTER, B.Sc. (Lond.), &c.
The Classes are open Day and Evening, and Students are prepared:—

- (a) For Situations as Shorthand-Typists, and Qualified Students are helped to obtain positions;
- (b) For Bank, Railway, Post Office, and other Clerkships, and for the usual Preliminary Examinations;
- (c) For the Examinations of the Institute of Bankers, the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, Chartered Accountants, Surveyors' Institution, Pharmaceutical, Society of Arts, &c. &c.

MANY SUCCESSES EVERY YEAR.
PROSPECTUS FREE ON APPLICATION.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

The 25th Great Annual

Floral & Musical Fete

JULY 8th, 9th, & 10th,
1913.

RECORD

HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

Prize Money over £1,000

Wonderful New Classes to
Celebrate this Anniversary.

Special Engagement of the Bands of

- H.M. COLDSTREAM GUARDS.
- H.M. SCOTS GUARDS.
- H.M. SCOTS GUARDS PIPERS
AND DANCERS.

MILITARY TOURNAMENTS.

HORSE LEAPING,
FIREWORKS,
ILLUMINATIONS,
Etc., Etc., Etc.

VARIETY AND
ACROBATIC
ENTERTAINMENTS
By Leading Stage Performers
new to Wolverhampton

PRICES AS USUAL

TAKE A NOTE OF OUR
ADVERTISERS.

THE

Wolverhampton Worker.

Literary matter intended for publication should be addressed to The Editor, WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER, 35, Queen Square, Wolverhampton. Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and in ink.

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

A SUBSCRIPTION OF ONE SHILLING per annum will ensure delivery (by post) of a copy of THE WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER for twelve months.

JUNE, 1913.

EDITORIAL.

We are extremely grateful for the wonderfully hearty reception accorded our first issue, and we are more than convinced that *The Wolverhampton Worker* has come to meet a real need of the people. We had only arranged for a supply of 15,000 copies (after disposing of doubts as to whether 10,000 or 12,000 would not be sufficient), but they were all demanded by our rapidly-growing host of helpers on the morning of the paper's first appearance. We had to get out a further 2,000 at once, and it is now evident that an issue of even 17,000 copies a month will be inadequate. The requests for big supplies from workers in the South and East Parliamentary Divisions (not to mention the West), have almost surprised us, but we will gladly do our best to meet them. Friends experiencing any difficulty in obtaining the paper should communicate with the Editor.

Plainly, the people of Wolverhampton and district are sick of the inaction and the insincerities of the many persons who, when seeking public honours, talk fluently of their sympathy with Labour, but who, when the duty of striking an immediate blow for the workers is near at hand, cross over to the other side, leave everything to be done by the true Samaritans of Trade Unionism, and then abuse and misrepresent them in a most despicable fashion. All this has been very evident during the householders' fight to resist the iniquitous raising of rents, and in the sweated workers' struggles to secure a living wage.

Only more conspicuous than the absence of the self-styled "friends of the people" from the people's meetings has been their success in closing the mouths, in regard to these vital questions, of almost all the paid preachers of Christianity in our midst. Lest any reader should fear that references to religion are "out of order" in a Trade Union paper we will here assert that not only is the whole spirit of our Labour movement essentially religious, but that the movement itself is the present-day expression of the Lord's Prayer. The workers' cry for an adequate living wage is synonymous with the sacred sentence, "Give us this day our daily bread." That bread, and all other necessities of life, are here in abundance, but are artificially and wrongfully denied to those who need and deserve them most. Again, Labour's appeal for the ideal ordering of material and mundane affairs on the principles of justice and righteousness is but another way of saying, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven." These are the essential things for which *The Wolverhampton Worker* stands, and the popular response to its message is one of the healthiest signs of the times.

Greatly as we dislike personal references, we have, in fairness to the Trade Union representatives on the Town Council, felt constrained to publish a full refutation in plain common language of the unwarrantable personal attack made upon them recently by Alderman Price Lewis. The position is very clear. About a year ago the Labour members, acting on a request from the Corporation employees' Trade Union, endorsed by the Trades Council, proposed that 25s. a week should be the minimum wage for adult men employed by the Municipality—an eminently reasonable and moderate proposal. Alderman Bantock succeeded in getting it remitted to the Finance Committee, who sat on it for six months. When their report was at last presented (in response to pressure from the Labour men) the two Manders put up a restrictive 24s. resolution, involving a further reference to committees. To this the Labour men promptly submitted their original 25s. motion, as an amendment. A vote was taken for or against 25s., and, of course, the Labour men voted for it. But they were "snowed down" by the united Liberals and Tories, who afterwards carried a further amendment by Councillor Weaver, to delay the whole matter still more, by referring it to all the various committees. And then, at the May meeting, when the Labour men were once more pressing the question, Alderman Lewis was so monstrously unfair as to charge the Labour men with the responsibility for the delay! Not content with helping to knock down the price of men from 25s. to 24s. a week, he deliberately sought to cast blame on to the only men who pressed forward the modest demands of the indispensable workers who serve the town. He must not be surprised if the people regard it as a mere outbreak of silly spleen. The Corporation workers know all the facts, and will not be misled by any technical trickery. They know who is responsible for all the wage-repressing and time-wasting tactics of the past twelve months. They want 25s., and will not be satisfied with less. They are exasperated at the shilly-shallying manner in which their appeal has been dealt with, and in the probable event of a strike the public will know that the blame will rest with the evasive anti-Labour members of the Town Council, and with Mr. Lewis for his ill-advised and unjust utterance.

B. W. T. A.

Local Branch Asks Government to Fulfil Pledges.

At a meeting of the local branch of the National British Women's Temperance Association, held on May 15th, a resolution in the following terms was passed and directed to be sent to the members of the Government and to the members of Parliament for the borough, viz:—

That the Wolverhampton branch of the National British Women's Temperance Association urges the Prime Minister to delay no longer the fulfilment of his pledge to place the 1908 Licensing Bill on the Statute Book as soon as the Parliament Act sets the House of Commons free to carry out the legislation demanded by the people, and prays him to introduce the long promised temperance measure in the session of 1913.

COMPARISONS.

Showing how the People are Beat
with their own Weapon.

At the great meeting in the Emp the other week, Mr. Chas. Duncan, M.P. in the course of his address, said that the House of Commons was mis-named, inasmuch as there were very few of the common people in it. He said that one of the deadliest insults that could be levelled at the vast majority of the present Members of Parliament would be to suggest that they were common people.

How very true this is is shown by the following table, which proves conclusively that the House of Commons, the reputed popular assembly, is the House of capital and privilege:—

Callings of M.P.s	Total each Group	Lib. Party	Tory Party	Irish Nationalists
Barristers and Solicitors	180	74	84	22
Employers	170	112	46	12
Landowners	46	15	30	1
Heirs to Peerage	36	12	24	nil
Army and Navy Officers	78	16	62	nil
Financiers	30	9	21	nil
Journalists	23	8	15	nil
Ex-miners	20	2	18	nil
Ex-workers other trades	36	2	34	nil
Miscellaneous	51	15	36	22
Totals	670	265	281	84

Note that the rich classes (5,000,000 persons) are one in nine of the nation, and that they hold eight in nine of the seat shared almost equally by the Tory and Liberal Parties. The working class (40,000,000 persons) are eight in nine of the nation, and they hold less than one in nine of the seats.

Note that the aristocracy are still the dominant influence in the Tory Party: landowners, sons of peers, and military men, and that the plutocracy are still the dominant influence in the Liberal Party, as employers of labour in the leading industries.

But in both parties these vested interests are rapidly being merged by intermarriage and class interests. Every wealthy landowner invests money in industrial concerns; and every industrial magnate buys up landed estates as the key that can alone open wide the door into the exclusive circles of aristocratic society.

Note also the hosts of lawyers who crowd the House of Commons. The legal gentry are the brains of the party machine, both Tory and Liberal, and of the vested interests of privilege and power in Parliament. Those of them who are not already rich are getting there, while the carpet-baggers among them are qualifying as party hacks for the same happy state.

No workman whose eyes are thus opened to the true inwardness of the political shams of Toryism and Liberalism alike can be true to himself, to his family and to his class if he does not enlist under the banner of Labour to fight this hypocrisy with all his might and main.

The only thing the employers fear is the possibility that the workers will wake up to use their strength unitedly in one mighty Labour movement, both political and industrial, to secure their civic and economic rights as the citizens of a free country.

The Labour Party links up the practical and the ideal, the immediate and the ultimate. While it tackles immediate social issues, so as to wrest from a grudging Government the utmost it can for the workers, the Labour Party never loses sight of the fact that the root causes of poverty are economic, and are traceable to the fact that the material sources of wealth, land, and capital are now owned and controlled by a small class of rich people in their own interests, and against the interests of the mass of the people.

The Labour Party is out to fight this monopoly power to the bitter end, and to win back for the whole of the people the common ownership and control of the means whereby the people must live.

The people have a powerful weapon in the vote. Up to now they have allowed the vested interests to use it as a stick to beat them with. This is proved by the Railways' Bill, the Right to Work Bill, and the 55s. Minimum Wage Proposal.

There is no earthly reason why the workers' interests should not be represented equally as strongly in the next Parliament as the vested interests are in the present one. When the common people wake to the fact that they are the people who matter they can alter it just as soon as they like. The remedy is in their own hands.

LOCAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By "THE CHIEF."

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

—BURNS.

An Improvement.

A new building has just been completed at the top of Victoria Street. From an architectural point of view, the proprietor is to be congratulated on adding to the town's buildings one worthy to rank with the best of them. But there is one very important point about it which I should like to draw attention to. How is it, I wonder, that the building line was not put further back? Here we have one of the most dangerous corners in the town. Lower down the same street an improvement is on foot which will have the effect of widening the street considerably, yet at the top, and most important end, any improvement scheme has been effectively put a stop to. I was told by a Town Councillor that he did not think the matter was raised in the Public Works Committee—which Committee, I believe, has to deal with these matters. I do not blame the proprietor. I blame the Committee for the lack of a little common intelligence. If the proprietor had been approached in a business-like manner, the probabilities are that he would have consented to dispose of a part of his frontage. And it would have been cheap almost at any price, considering the amount of money which has been spent on improvements in that part of the town in recent years. Now there will have to be a terrible accident or some other catastrophe before we can have Victoria Street widened. O, for an up-to-date Public Works Committee!

A New Street.

The Town Council have decided to purchase land off the Penn Road, in order to construct a new street to provide a more ready means of access to the Blakenhall district from other parts of the town. This is just the thing which is required, and I welcome it. But—(that "but" will creep in—but what can one do when we have such a bright Council to deal with—one which three men can terrorise?)—I was going to say that where one thought there was going to be room for housing development, one finds there won't be any.

The Reason Why.

Alderman Bantock, in moving the purchase, said no district in Wolverhampton needed houses more than Blakenhall. Very good! Alderman Lewis hoped the Council would experiment in building houses for the people. Excellent! It is surprising how these friends of the poor come along after other people have done the spade work, isn't it? Councillor George hoped houses of the jerry-built type would not be erected, the reason being, as he stated himself, that his own house would depreciate in value. And then Alderman Bantock said no house would be erected at a cost of less than £350, or a pair for £600. That means to say that the houses there will be let at a rental of anything from 11s. 6d. per week upwards. So, my dear friend, the poor working man, you have been done again. And the effect will be to increase the value of the other lower-priced houses in that district. Do you see the reason? More rent! And Freddie said Blakenhall ought to be proud of its representatives. Yes, all but two of them.

The High Rent Evil.

That brings me to this wretched housing question again. I was interested to read the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for Sedgley. Dealing with overcrowding, he says: "This is a difficult problem to tackle in your district. The houses are small and the people poor but prolific. In all the cases the overcrowding was due to the size of the families, and in no case was there more than one family in the same house. As far as possible we try to remedy the evil, but in a district such as this, where houses are so scarce, one is compelled to pick out the worst cases only."

The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. W. Wane), also dealing with overcrowding, states: "Seventeen cases of overcrowding came under notice, against 6 last year and 14 in the year 1910. I understand that in two of these cases owners of property

have refused to let houses to applicants because of their large families. In two other cases, inability to pay the rent of a larger house is an obstacle not readily overcome. When overcrowding can only be abated by depriving a family of some portion of their means of obtaining an adequate supply of food, the matter becomes one for advice or help rather than compulsion. In every case of overcrowding that came under notice, there has been one family only in each of the houses concerned."

Its Effect in Wolverhampton.

The above extracts are a strong commentary on the effect of a shortage of housing accommodation. It is a common practice for landlords to refuse to let their houses to a man or woman with a large family. There is a deliberate shortage in Sedgley, where land is comparatively cheap. There is a deliberate shortage in Wolverhampton, where there is a huge industrial population. Sedgley, with its rural population, has confined its overcrowding to one family per house. But what happens in industrial areas? We find it in London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Salford, etc. Whole families in one room. Two or three families in one house. Shade of W. T. Stead! What are the landlords driving us to? White slavery, incest, and other nameless evils. We shall hear about it when the illegitimacy returns go up. And when this beautiful Town Council has a chance to deal with the question, as they did in the case of the new road above mentioned, they do nothing. Perhaps those three terrible Labour men stopped them!

Skinner Street.

I must confess that this is a most distasteful and sordid subject to write upon, but something needs to be said. When this case first came on, the Chief Constable, in righteous indignation, declared his intention to publish the names of those men (?) concerned. When the case was heard, however, not one word was said as to the identity of the vile creatures who frequented this evil resort, yet the names of the misguided women were given. Does this mean that there are two codes of morality—one for men and another for women. Why must the women *always* bear the brunt of the shame? And, again, I may point out to those in authority, many names are being bandied about the town as being concerned in the scandal. This being so, it would only have been what the guilty parties deserved, and possibly have prevented injustice to innocent people if the names had been published. As a matter of public morality, they should have been, and I take this opportunity of congratulating Councillor Sharrocks on the stand he made in the Council chamber.

The Trade Union Mission Week.

The Clerk of the Weather was in a most contrary humour during the first week of last month, when the Trade Union Mission Week was held. Rain, rain, rain—nothing but rain. The amount which fell ought to preclude the possibility of a water famine for a decade. Even when it had been fine for a few hours, and one hoped the Clerk had softened his heart, down it would come again just on the time of the meeting. But damp as it was, the spirits of the many willing helpers could not be damped. There is nothing like adverse climatic conditions for proving the worth of the workers in any cause, and it did my heart good to see the numbers who turned out to give a hand at the meetings. And, notwithstanding the weather, the meetings which had to be abandoned could be counted on one hand. Upwards of fifteen hundred new Trade Unionists were made, and the mission has lit a fire of enthusiasm for Trade Unionism which will never die out. I am glad to see that the Trades and Labour Council are to arrange another for the early autumn, when national speakers and members of Parliament will take part.

Price Lewis's Piffle.

Alderman Price Lewis has the reputation of being a funny man, but, in my

opinion, he is never so funny as when he is trying to be serious. The other day he, along with his bosom friend—Alderman G. R. Thorne—was at Heath Hayes, and in the course of his remarks he made a statement to the effect that if Mr. Lloyd George had died after the passing of the Old Age Pension Act the nation should have erected a monument of solid gold to his memory. I know several people who would willingly subscribe to one now if that right hon. gentleman would accommodate them by departing from this vale of toil and sorrow. But I should like Mr. Lewis to inform us what the Chancellor has done since the period he mentioned that there should not be one erected to his memory when the eventuality referred to does take place. Mr. Thorne in the course of his address also said that "something must be done!" I can assure him that something will be done, and that very soon.

Wolverhampton West.

I have received the following verses which I have pleasure in reproducing:—

We hail the coming fight
In Wolverhampton West.
The "Bird" must take his flight,
And find another nest.
An opportunity so great
Must not be left to chance or fate.

Walkden is true as steel,
And full of manly grit.
His genuineness and zeal
Are on his features writ.
A fit and proper person he,
To send as workers' own M.P.

The Cause is worthy, too!
'Tis surely right and fit—
If we would get our due,
Where mighty magnates sit—
To have a representative
To claim for us the Right to Live.

Three-cornered is the fight—
"Triangular," they say:
Then, on Election night,
'Twill cheer us on our way
If Walkden fills the "apex" place,
With Lib. and Tory at the base.

But this can not be done
Without the wherewithal.
Then let us every one
Respond unto the call;
And give our portion willingly
To help the Cause to Victory.

WHY I AM IN THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.

By THE REV. J. A. SHAW, M.A.

I believe in the Cause of Labour because it is the People's only hope. It most fully expresses the law of justice, and it most worthily honours the principles of Christianity.

Each of the other political parties is tied up to the interests of the privileged classes. Liberal or Conservative candidates are either rich men or the nominees of rich men.

A rich man cannot represent a poor man; if the worker votes for the capitalist he votes against his own interests, and against the interests of those dependent upon him. Every strike, every issue between Capital and Labour makes this fact very clear.

So long as the fight is a real one, and the issue is in the balance, politicians who protest their love for the workers at election times are silent, or else actually on the side of the master and the capitalist. It is true that they manage to appear in time to join in the shouting, and to throw up their caps with the rest, but this is done with a view to future elections, and the trick is understood quite well by Liberal and Conservative masters.

In view of the solidarity of the party of ownership, landlordism, capital, and privilege, the effort to make the solidarity of Labour an equally imposing and a more important fact should be bolder and more enthusiastic. The social gospel should be preached with all the fervour of sincere religion. The need and duty of joining hands with the rest should be thrust upon the conscience of every worker.

The growing disposition of masters to forget old rivalries, to sink other differences, and stand together in support of the selfish capitalistic system, and against the worker, is a direct challenge to the latter. Those who are out for profits—and ever more profits—must "chortle in their glee" when they see their victims still deluded and blind enough to vote either Liberal or Conservative.

The game of party politics is painful and corrupt in other connections, but that it is consistently played against the worker and still receives his support is the marvel of marvels.

When the scales have fallen from the eyes of the people a new and glorious day will have dawned. The power of capital would be veritable weakness by the side of the power of combined labour throughout the world. Labour will never come into its own until all men and women are in the unions, and all unions are working together, both sympathetically and organically.

It is high time the worker realised that the power and the very instrument for lifting himself into better conditions is in his own hands. He has the power to emancipate himself if he would, but he does not clearly see that he must work out his own salvation. He has trusted others all too long until they have robbed him

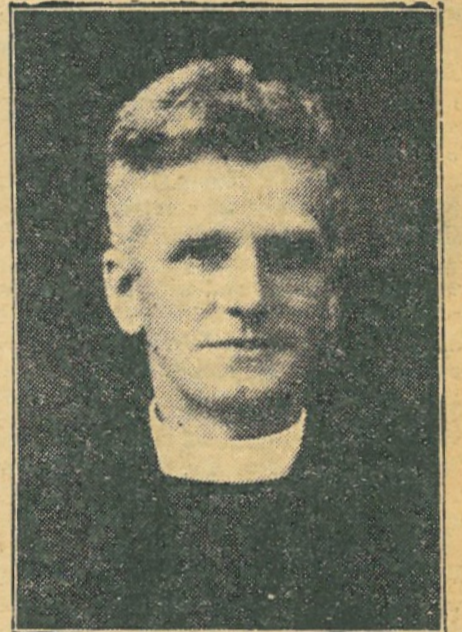


Photo by A. E. Langdon.

Rev. JAS. A. SHAW
(All Souls' Church).

and stripped him and left him more than half dead.

The worst of it is that these people who act so pretend that their proceeding is natural and just, and that God arranged things thus.

No wonder there is dry-rot in the Churches, when Almighty Love is made responsible for "man's inhumanity to man." When we see the churches indifferent to the real needs of the people and declining to champion the cause of social justice, and again, when we see the churches either refusing to resist or actually advocating the hellish proposals of militarism, we must look elsewhere for true and sincere religion.

In my judgment all earnest humans who are out in the cause of social justice and universal peace are doing the only religious work on this planet that is worth mentioning. In the presence of modern contrasts of enjoyment and want, of luxury and sodden poverty, the Church's pretended acceptance of the grand principles of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man is an insincerity.

If we really believed that God were the universal Father, and man brother of man "the wide world o'er," we should not live and act as we do. No effort has a diviner sanction or a more spiritual significance than that which seeks to give Labour its place "in the sun."

Until we have learned a new respect and a new reverence for man's body, mental and moral advance will be impossible.

For the sake of the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth and the growth of a morally and spiritually perfect race at length willing the very things that Eternal Love has willed from the beginning, I count it a privilege to join in the effort to emancipate and elevate the worker. Wage-slavery, and every other form of slavery, ought to be impossible. The resources of nature are more than ample for all needs.

In this earth-home there is enough and to spare if we could stop the grabbing of the selfish few. When we come to realise in what a world we live, and how adequate the provision is for man's just needs, then we shall be in a fair way for living the life we ought to live, and for giving to earthly duty something of the tone and touch of heavenly service.

JAS. A. SHAW.

THE REVIVAL.

TRADE UNION ORGANISERS HAVE A GOOD WEEK IN WOLVERHAMPTON AND REAP A HARVEST.

Wolverhampton, an important manufacturing town, has long had an unenviable reputation in Trade Union circles. The number of workers enrolled in their Unions, when compared with other towns, shows a lamentable state of affairs. There exists an enormous amount of disorganised labour; masses of men who have failed to realise even one simple fact of modern industrial methods, namely, that collective bargaining by the worker, through his Union, is the first essential, and is vital to his improvement.

The steady organisation of all Labour forces, which has been steadfastly proceeding in the town for some time, has recognised in these facts a primary element of weakness.

The formation of a Labour Party, bringing with it the advent of a Parliamentary Labour Candidate, has focussed attention on the matter. As a result of discussion and consideration a new innovation has been tried in Wolverhampton.

We have had during the last month what has been termed a Trade Union Mission Week.

The headquarters of the various Unions were approached, and with ready willingness, their organisers were sent into this district for the full week. A whole series of meetings was carefully planned out.

The Empire Meeting.

The week commenced on Sunday, April 27, with a mass meeting in the Empire. The weather was most trying, but in spite of this the place was well filled.

The chair was taken by Mr. A. G. Walkden, General Secretary of the Railway Clerks' Association, the Labour candidate for next Parliamentary election. The speakers were Mr. C. Duncan, M.P. for Barrow, General Secretary Workers' Union, and Mr. R. C. Wallhead, I.L.P., Labour candidate for Coventry. Some little opposition, which was shown in the opening of Mr. Wallhead's speech, was quickly and most effectively disposed of.

To a splendid speech of over half-an-hour the large audience gave close attention. In stating the time had now come to cease passing pious resolutions, and for the workers to do things themselves at the ballot box, he struck a real and true note. The continued applause upon his resuming his seat was abundant evidence of the impression made.

Mr. C. Duncan, M.P. (General Secretary Workers' Union), in a careful and lucid statement, demonstrated clearly the need for a combined action by the workers, and the great results to be obtained by a full use of that combination. If the workers of Wolverhampton wished a Trade Unionist to represent them in Parliament then it was entirely in their hands. To vote together as workers meant a foregone conclusion.

The meeting closed rather late, but upon a unanimous note.

Street Corner Campaign.

For the week, dinner-hour meetings were held at various works' gates, in all quarters of the town. In the evenings open-air meetings were taking place simultaneously in different localities. Snow Hill, Whitmore Reans, Wednesfield, Ettingshall, Willenhall, and Bilston were visited. At each meeting there were two or more speakers. Prominent local Trade Unionists rallied to the occasion.

The weather, unfortunately, proved none too kind, but in all cases where at all possible, the advertised meeting was held.

The evening meetings in the various wards were well received. Some of them were a surprise to the originators of the week's scheme. The attendance ran into several hundreds, and at times the meetings did not close until 10 p.m.

When it is remembered that it was a serious subject being discussed, that the speakers were much in earnest, that there was no intention of providing amusement to a crowd, but to provide food for thought, then it is certain that underneath all the apparent apathy in Wolverhampton there is a serious and thoughtful mind.

Upwards of 36 such meetings were held, and over 40 speakers were in attendance. Mr. A. G. Walkden put in a very arduous week. He was present at as many meetings as it was physically possible to attend. His reception was very favourable, and the careful attention paid to his addresses will certainly bear fruit for the future.

Early in the week the strike at Messrs. Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss broke out. Very promptly the various organisers went to the assistance of the strikers.

Strike meetings were held on three of the afternoons. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Walkden, Rev. J. A. Shaw, and many others. Collection of funds was organised, and in every way possible the strikers were assisted in their stand against a disgracefully low wage.

An intended mass meeting on Saturday was largely spoiled by the wet, but some hundreds assembled on the market. A collection realising a handsome amount, was taken for the support of the strikers.

The final meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, and was very well attended.

The speakers were Rev. J. A. Shaw, Mr. Walkden, and Councillor Simpson, of Birmingham.

And the Result.

At all meetings men have been urged to join their various Unions. With patience and earnestness, argument and reason has been brought to bear.

It is gratifying to know that, as one result, at least 1,000 new members have entered their trade organisations.

The Gasworkers and General Labourers have enrolled a substantial increase, and the organiser of the Workers' Union reports many having joined, and still joining.

There can be no doubt that the dry bones of Trade Unionism in Wolverhampton have been well shaken. It is quite clear that no longer need any slur or reproach rest on our town for its non-unionism. What is needed is a more virile faith, an awakened imagination, and a little hard work, then Wolverhampton can forge ahead.

In the autumn the experiment will be repeated. It will be looked forward to with interest, and its results with confidence.

A. BODEN.

WHO IS TO BLAME.

The French League of the Young Republic has discovered the convincing value of the sweating exhibition, and at the present moment the Sweaters' Museum is the latest thing in Paris.

There the gay and well-to-do buyers of sweated goods can see what their purchases spell in terms of human tears and blood. The exhibition is run very much on the lines of the English one for which the Principal of Aberdeen University was so largely responsible. A dramatic touch is supplied by a little curtained recess at the far end of the room, into which you are bidden to enter. It contains a *mirror* bearing the legend, "Who is to blame?"

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

I.L.P. Conference Report.

The official report of the twenty-first annual conference of the I.L.P., held at Manchester at Easter, has now been issued, and every member of the party should certainly possess it. It is neatly printed and bound, and on the cover appears photographs of Mr. W. C. Anderson and Mr. J. Keir Hardie, M.P. The annual reports of the N.A.C. and of the I.L.P. Members of Parliament are included, together with a verbatim report of Mr. Anderson's masterly address from the chair. Copies may be had from Mr. H. J. Payne (secretary to the Wolverhampton Branch of the I.L.P.), at the I.L.P. Rooms, Dudley-street; price 3d.

Labour Party's Annual Report.

In the thirteenth annual report of the Labour Party one may find particulars of all branches of the work of the party, as well as an excellent and highly interesting report of the conference. To any student of the Labour movement in Parliament it will be invaluable, containing a resumé of the work of the Parliamentary Labour Party; in fact anything you don't know about the Labour movement. The price is 3d., and it can be obtained on inquiry at the Labour Assembly Rooms or from the secretary of the Trades and Labour Council.

REFLECTIONS

Following the Strike at Bayliss' Works.

By A. E. ELLERY.

"I am glad the women led the way," said Mrs. Dideridge, and who knows but that the action of the women workers at Bayliss's may not be prophetic of movements in the future?

The women in the Screw Departments of the Monmore Green Works said that the firm were not keeping the agreement made at the conclusion of the previous strike. They refused to return to work, and the spirit displayed fired a spark which led to the revolt of some 1,200 men and women. As they came out, department after department, they called for membership cards of the Workers' Union.

Practically all those who struck work have joined the Union—Now! Therein lies the bitter reflection to those of us who, in preaching organisation in past days, have been like "voices crying in the wilderness." Why, oh why! didn't they do it before?

As things were, the fight was entered upon with no preparation or equipment for the battle. No strike pay; merely the uncertain help which the collecting boxes and generous friends might bring.

Is it too much to hope that the lesson has not been lost? That other workers who have watched the contest will profit by the mistakes, and organise *to-day*, will prepare *to-day*?

To those workers who thus learn the outstanding lesson of the strike, and act accordingly, the day of trouble will find them ready, with a Strike Fund to fall back upon; the organisation ready, drilled and armed, so to speak, for the fray.

They—the men—struck for a 2s. advance, but, under the advice of the Workers' Union, they decided to demand a 23s. per week minimum. The firm offered 21s. per week, being an advance of 3s.

The women asked for a 12s. per week minimum for day workers over 21. The firm offered 10s. minimum for those 20 years of age and upwards, one department to receive 12s. minimum.

This was an advance of 2s. and 3s. per week.

The men in some departments had had to submit to deductions from earnings (percentage discounts). The firm offered, in one department, to abolish the discount of 10 per cent., in another 7½ per cent., and in another 5 per cent.

These are the principal features of the settlement.

The Workers' Union declined to be responsible for a settlement which did not concede the Union rates, and the workpeople were left to decide "on their own."

There is not much doubt but that if the strikers had continued to stand solid for another week or so the firm would have come to the Union terms.

Fighting on the side of the employers, however, were hunger and want. The cry of the child in the home turned the faces of the men towards the gates. The pity of it!

And now, for six months, there is a truce at Bayliss's.

We are glad for the spirit of solidarity displayed; glad of the comradeship of the men and women who fought side by side; glad of the help which came from the Trade Unionists, and which heartened us to fight better; glad of the personal service given ungrudgingly by the members of the Women's Labour League and by Mr. J. Whittaker (president, Trades Council), Mr. H. Bagley (secretary, Trades Council), Councillor W. Sharrocks, Mr. Walkden, and others; we are glad and grateful.

The workpeople at the works of Messrs. Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss, Ltd., are now strongly organised, and, through the Trades Council, are linked up with their fellows in the organised working-class movement.

They have emerged from the struggle full of the new spirit. To them, we hope, the light has come; that they have "seen the vision."

WORDS v. ACTIONS.

Sympathy may be expressed by either laughter or tears, being merely a physical operation. It is therefore possible to sympathise with others without serving them, but *compassion*, being altogether a moral feeling, makes us enter into the distresses of others and turn our thoughts and actions towards relieving them.

On the Friday night when the strike at Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss was nearing a settlement, the firm having offered terms, Alderman C. T. Richards and Councillor J. Clarke held a meeting at Monmore Green Council Schools to express their deep sympathy and to offer their services in order to get the strikers to accept the terms offered them, being only anxious for the strike to come to an end.

Speaking as though holding a mandate for the employers, they pointed out the firm had a struggle to exist, and coolly endeavoured to frighten the strikers into submission by suggesting if Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss had to pay a living wage to their employees it might cause them to leave the district, as other firms had done, and they (the speakers) could not conceive what would become of the strikers, as *ipso facto*, the firm existed only to provide employment, and incidentally wages and salaries for the inhabitants of Monmore Green and a few others who reside at Tettenhall, and other suburban districts.

In conversation with one of the strikers, Councillor J. Clarke again expressed sympathy, but when asked why he did not do something to see that the starving children were fed, stated he did not see what he could do, adding that he also represented the firm, to which came the ready retort: "How many votes did the firm give you?"

Councillor Sharrocks being a Trade Unionist and a Labour member, knowing the suffering and distress which existed, and realising women and children could not be allowed to starve, together with Mr. Lawley, interviewed the Mayor, who arranged for the "Ladies' Committee" to be called together, and the members decided to commence operations on the following Monday.

Councillor Sharrocks, recognising the sufferers had to exist four or five days before this assistance would be forthcoming, opened a subscription list among the members of the Council, to which there was a good response (although we regret to say that certain prominent *Liberal* "friends of the poor" who were approached did not subscribe) and was able to distribute bread, butter, sugar, and tea to over a hundred families.

Through the efforts of the Trades and Labour Council a further 200 cases were dealt with on the Friday and Saturday.

The children asking for food were offered *sympathy* by their *Liberal* friends (*sic*) and starved, but *compassion* from the Labour stalwarts saved them.

They now realise who are their true friends, the scales having been removed from their eyes.

We notice that later Alderman Richards and Councillor Clark opened a subscription list of their own, but according to a very "Vigilant" person on a local newspaper, it did not meet with great success. We wonder why?

Councillor Sharrocks's appeal in the Council Chamber, met with the following result:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
The Mayor	10	0	Henn	2	0
ALDERMEN.					
Mander	10	0	Hickin	2	0
Johnson	10	0	Hodson	2	6
Marston	10	0	Hughes	5	0
Plant	10	0	Jennings	2	0
	10	0	Jones	2	0
COUNCILLORS.					
Beattie	2	0	Mander	10	0
Beckett	2	0	A Friend	5	0
Brown	2	6	Moseley	10	0
Clark	2	6	Myatt	2	6
Clarkson	5	0	Painter	2	0
Coleman	2	0	Sharrocks	2	0
Evans	2	0	A. C. Skidmore	2	6
Frost	2	0	White	2	6
George	2	0	Mr. Woodward		
Gibson	2	0	Waterworks' Engineer	3	0

We also tender our heartiest thanks to the Patent Digestive Bread Co., of Heerick-street, who handsomely came to Sharrocks's assistance with 200 loaves of bread.

The Trades Council have also given out somewhere about 550 tickets for food, etc. A full list of subscriptions received by the Trades Council will be found under Trades Council Notes, C.W.H.



TAKE A NOTE OF OUR ADVERTISERS.

THE WORKERS.

What the Various People's Movements are Doing.

TRADES COUNCIL.

A busy month! Trades Mission Week, May Sunday Demonstration, Tenants' Defence League, and Strikes! During these eruptions business of the Council has necessarily been much heavier than the average. However, some little time must be devoted to filling the column allowed by the Editor of the *Worker*.

At the recent monthly meeting a letter was read from the Assistant General Secretary of the Labour Party, who desires to make Wolverhampton the centre for a conference of Trade Union officials and members. The model rules governing ballots in Trade Unions under the Trade Union Act (1913) will shortly be published, and the Party are desirous of rendering all possible assistance to officials.

A series of conferences will be held about the country for this purpose, and Wolverhampton must count itself fortunate in being selected as one. The date fixed is Friday, June 6th, and it is expected Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., will attend on behalf of the Executive. Will Society secretaries please note? The Secretary of the Trades Council will ere these notes have been printed have issued circulars, but the importance of the conference cannot be too strongly emphasised.

Willenhall Trades Council hold a demonstration on Sunday June 8th, at 2.30. Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., is the "star." This Council will be represented officially by Mr. J. Dideridge (A.S.E.), Mr. H. Roberts (Boot and Shoe), and Mr. J. Bellis (Gasworkers' Union). Of course, President Whittaker will attend too.

A letter was read at the Council meeting from the Secretary of the Saskatchewan Trades Council warning carpenters and workers in the building lines about the state of the labour market in Canada, or that part of the Dominion round Alberta. It was alleged that the statements made by the agents who stump this country on behalf of the Canadian Government do not explain all the circumstances, and that the workers out yonder have great difficulty in regulating wages, etc., without being harassed by the influx of labour which the masters desire.

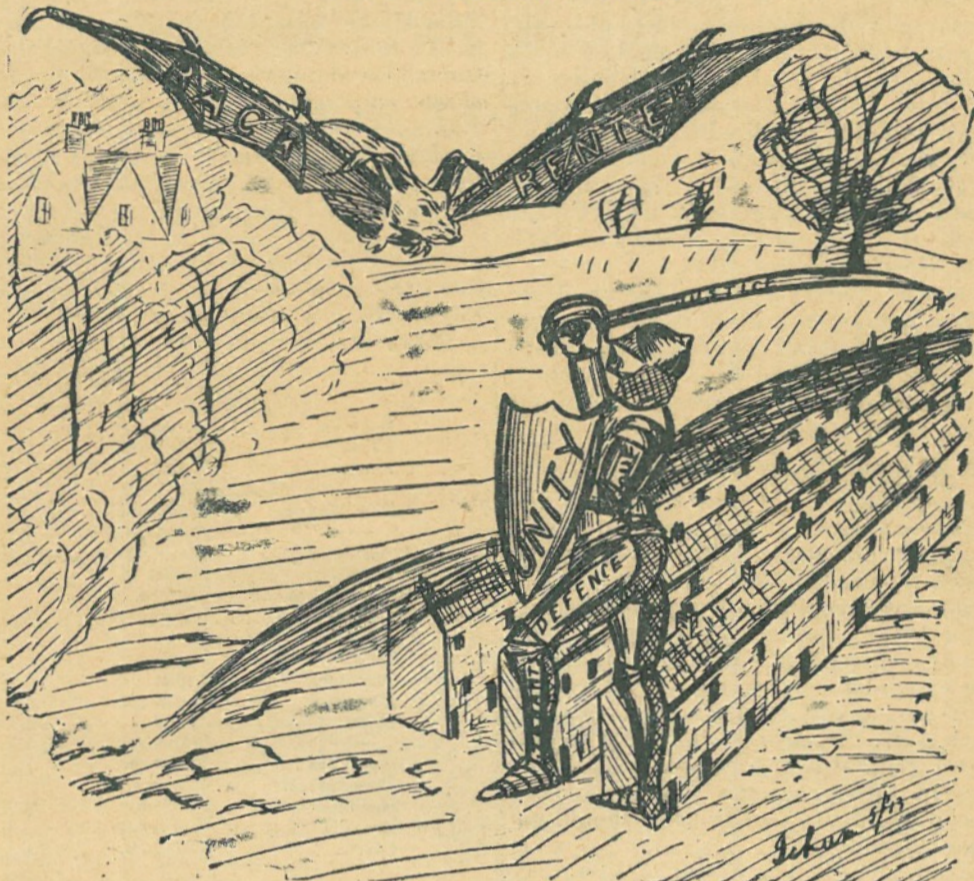
The Trades Council desire to thank those societies who so grandly responded to the appeal by the secretary for the strike fund of the labourers and women who were out at Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss's. Also congratulations to the stalwarts who fought and won. "An army marches on its stomach," said Napoleon, so when workers win battles on empty bellies the "powers that be" must look out when the masses get their share of the eatables.

Appended is a list of the subscriptions received by H. Bagley (Secretary of the Council), up to going to press:—

	£	s.	d.
Collection by boxes	66	13	11
Collections at doors of Places of			
Worship:—		s.	d.
Mount Zion	6	3½	
Trinity Wesley	6	2½	
Queen Street (1st collection)	0	9	
Queen Street (2nd collection)	0	2	
Lord Street	0	4½	
	0	13	9½
Collections by envelopes	15	2	0½
Sunbeam Motor Works:—	£	s.	d.
1st Collection	3	14	3
2nd "	11	3	2½
3rd "	0	17	11
4th "	0	16	3
5th "	0	13	1
Carpenters (No. 1)	17	4	8½
Coopers' Society	1	0	0
Brassworkers	0	5	0
Orme, Evans	1	6	9
Orme, Evans	1	4	2
Typographical Society	0	9	9
Mrs. Roberts	0	10	3
Rees' Roturbo	0	3	8
Railway Clerks' Assn.	5	5	0
Ditto (collection at Conference, per A. J. Weaver)	2	12	6
Plumbers	1	0	0
Pattern Makers	0	10	0
Carpenters (No. 1)	2	0	0
Tinplate Workers	3	0	0
Dr. Marion Philips (Women's Labour League)	0	5	0
Gasworkers Union	0	15	10
" (Coseley)	0	15	0
" (per Mr. Beddows)	0	2	0
Prudential Agents	0	10	0

CRADDOCK'S WONDERFUL BOOTS.

THE TENANT'S WAR.



Rack-renting blighters fill the land,
And workers clothe and feed 'em,
Then lower down the workers move
For Blight, and Greed, and Bleed 'em.

[Our artist has depicted the rack-renting monster flying past the villa residence of the well-to-do, and casting his foul shadow over the poorer-class areas. But, the tenant, by buckling on the armour of unity will be able to resist his onslaughts.]

The following summary of accounts of the Easter Monday Whist Drive were presented at the meeting of the committee formed for the management of the affair:—

	£	s.	d.
INCOME—			
By Sale of Tickets	6	3	0
„ Donations	0	5	0
„ Profit of Refreshments	0	0	4
	£6	8	4
EXPENSES—			
Cost of Prizes	2	2	7
Hire of Cards	0	1	3
	£2	3	10
Profit of	£4	4	6

This has been supplemented by various small sums, and the total amount cleared is now £4 13s. 6d.

E.C.

L.R.C. NOTES.

The L.R.C. offers its congratulations to the *Worker* and feels assured the workers of Wolverhampton appreciate the appearance of a paper devoted to the welfare and strengthening of the Labour movement, both industrial and political, in which their programme and policy can be put forward without misrepresentation.

A meeting was held at the Empire, the speakers were C. Duncan, M.P., R. C. Wallhead, prospective Labour candidate for Coventry, with Mr. Walkden in the chair. The meeting was well attended, and the speeches delivered created a deep impression upon the audience, and have recruited a number of workers to the ranks of the Labour Party.

The L.R.C., in conjunction with other bodies, are arranging for a *Daily Citizen* Week to be held, and good progress is being made in the movement.

C.W.H.

I.L.P. NOTES.

Having in our last issue provided readers with a glimpse of outward activities I wish now to give some idea of the inside work.

Everyone joining our party are not long in realising the value of the discussions which take place at our ordinary fortnightly meetings.

These are certainly of a distinctly educational character, and as a result our members are more than able to hold their own in workshop or street-corner arguments, on almost any and every political topic.

That our branch meeting debates are of a varied and useful description may be gathered by my mentioning a few of the subjects that have recently received consideration. These include

Proportional Representation, the running of a daily newspaper, and whether lady clerks should be paid the same wages as their men colleagues. Next meeting we may be discussing the tenants' war again, or possibly the effect of English rule in India.

People getting on in years, as well as young men and women, come into our movement, and, where real interest is manifested, quickly pick up the threads of our movement and become missionaries for our cause—a cause of peace and brotherhood in a practical sense.

"Come, friends, the world wants mending,
Let us not sit down and rest."
These are the sentiments that every I.L.P.er tries to live up to.

At the time of writing we have just completed arrangements for the visit of one of our national organisers, Comrade Catlem, and as a result of his efforts we hope to strengthen our position locally.

Persons wishing to join the I.L.P. should write H. J. Payne, Manby-street, Wolverhampton. E. F.

WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE.

This month will long be remembered by the members of the W.L.L. for the opportunities given of active participation in the real Labour and Socialist movement.

Our members have been delighted to take their part in the Trade Union Mission week, and also in the keen but bitter struggle against starvation and sweating conditions prevalent at the Works at Monmore Green. We have been brought into actual contact with a phase of life which is most degrading to those condemned to its soul-destroying influences. Let us hope that now the women workers at this firm have been brought into touch with the forces of political organisation, the intimacy thus begun will not end now that the strike has been ended with victory.

The League is now considering the question of the establishment of School Clinics, so that the defects in the health of children, discovered during the medical examination, may be efficiently treated. Some months have elapsed since the League forwarded to the Education Authority a resolution urging that body to adopt such a scheme, and we were informed that a scheme had been approved by that body, and the sanction of the Board of Education was all that was necessary to its adoption.

It certainly is about time something was done to hurry up that Government department. We are spending a lot of the people's money in paying for the medical inspection, and unless that inspection is followed by treatment much of the

Sole Agents for
J. BRINSMEAD & SON,
KAFB, Dresden,
BROADWOOD,
HOPKINSON.

RODEN'S RELIABLE

From £18 18s. 0d. **PIANOS**
Warranted Ten Years.
64, DARLINGTON STREET.

READ "THE DAILY CITIZEN."

money so spent might just as well not be spent. Of what use is it to poverty-stricken parents to know that the eyes of their child are defective, and that it should wear spectacles, when there is no money with which to provide them? We must agitate until we have a thorough system in operation which will be of material benefit to the children.

Wednesday, May 21, was a red letter day for the League, when Dr. Marion Phillips, the national secretary, addressed two well-attended meetings of the members and friends.

In the afternoon address Miss Phillips dealt principally with the work of the League in a national capacity, instancing particular towns as bright examples of what women organised may accomplish, especially in the corporate care of the children and in matters dealing with the housing of the people. Women should make the housing question particularly their own. In one town, with a strong contingent of Labour men on the Town Council, all plans for houses were submitted to the Women's Labour League before being passed; this is a practice worthy of extension, inasmuch as it is the woman who uses the house the most, and is therefore better able to judge of the requirements. Continuing, Dr. Phillips strongly advocated the provision of baths with hot water conveniences in every home, and demonstrated how this can be done at very little extra expense. Tea was served to a goodly company in the Labour Assembly Rooms, after which followed a social evening.

During the evening a resolution was passed protesting against the arrest, in Egypt, of M. Arles, the Russian seamen's Trade Union leader, and urging the Labour Party in Parliament to use its strongest influence to secure his release.

The thanks of the League are due to the artistes for their splendid musical items, and it is hoped that many more gatherings of a similar character may be held, and so help to strengthen the feminine side of the great Labour movement.

A.D.

P.S.A. NOTES.

The success of the Brotherhood movement in many towns ought to make Wolverhampton P.S.A.ers wake up to the fact that something of a similar character should be started here, right in the centre of the town.

The only brotherhood at present in Wolverhampton is the latest addition to the P.S.A. Federation—the Wesley Brotherhood, Bilston Road.

A splendid work is being accomplished here under the presidency of the Rev. C. A. Duthie. It has been my privilege and pleasure to attend their gathering on two occasions. Included in a most helpful service were some very fine selections of music by the Wesley String Band.

We who are engaged in P.S.A. work amongst the "mixed classes" realise and appreciate to the full the magnificent service rendered to the cause by our women members, and I feel sure that it is because of this that the Brotherhood movement has not spread more rapidly in Wolverhampton.

At the same time there is no doubt that the Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods attract far more to their meetings than the ordinary P.S.A.s. Why it should be so I cannot explain. It cannot be that there is a stronger social message in the Brotherhoods than in the "mixed classes."

At all events, that is not so with the classes that are affiliated with the P.S.A. Federation; in fact I know several speakers—convicted Socialists—who are heartily welcomed whenever they attend to address any of these classes.

The Rev. S. W. Hughes, in his presidential address to the Birmingham and Midland Brotherhood Federation last year, declared that the sign "P.S.A. signified a Powerful Social Agency." Let every P.S.A. member make a mental note of this. So far as my knowledge carries me, the movement was started with the express purpose of interesting people in the social problems of the time.

A short time ago I heard someone say in the course of an address: "When you pray 'Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done—on earth, as it is in heaven' you either want it to come or you don't. If you don't want it to come, don't pray for it. If you do want it to come—do something else besides pray—work."

There is room for a Town Brotherhood in Wolverhampton. If Stourbridge, with a population of 17,000, can form a Brotherhood of 700 in seven weeks—and still going strong—then, surely, a town like this, with a population of about 100,000, can do something of a like nature on a much larger scale.

I shall be pleased to answer any inquiries from anyone interested in Brotherhood or P.S.A. work if they will address their communications to the undersigned, c/o The Local Editor, *Wolverhampton Worker*, and marked in corner of the envelope "P.S.A."

In the meantime, all "seekers after truth"

(Continued on page 8.)

Get your Understanding improved at **LAWLEY'S**, the People's Boot Repairer
Shops:—DUDLEY ROAD, NORTH STREET, and BATH ROAD.

PROPERTY FOR SALE.
HOUSES, ETC., TO LET.

TO LET OR FOR SALE.

COMPACT PREMISES,
Nos. 5 and 6, Great Brickkiln Street.
House with Eight Rooms.
Retail Shop.
Manufactory, Room for 20 men.

Apply FREDERIC BARKER,
2, St. Paul's Terrace, Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Tenants' Defence League.

Chairman: J. WHITTAKER, J.P., 39, Owen Road.
Hon. Treasurer: Coun. J. WALSH, 135, Dudley Road.
Hon. Secretary: S. BELCHER, 88, Oak Street.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTS.

1. To resist the unjust raising of rents by the Property Owners' Association.
2. To organise protection for such Tenants who are victimised through resisting.
3. To give legal advice and assistance as between Tenant and Landlord.
4. To press upon the Town Council the necessity for immediately putting into operation the Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

A Subscription, however small, will entitle you to Membership.

Shopkeepers' Defence Association.

OBJECT: To obtain the Repeal of Laws that unduly interfere with the individual liberty of Shopkeepers.

All communications to C. T. SHAW,
53, Worcester St., Wolverhampton.

RANDLE EVANS,
67, Merridale St. West.

HORSE AND WAGGONETTES
FOR HIRE.

RUBBER TYRED.

P.S.A. Notes continued from page 7.

will be heartily welcomed on Sunday afternoons at three o'clock at any of the following classes:
The People's Class, Darlington St. (Unsect.).
Mount Zion, Horseley Fields (U. Methodist).
Wesley Brotherhood, Bilston Road.
Newhampton Road (Wesleyan).
Darlington Street (Wesleyan).
Heath Town (Wesleyan).
Snow Hill (Congregational).
York Street (Congregational).
Stafford Street (Congregational).
Waterloo Road (Baptist).
Parkfield Road (Primitive Methodist).
Lord Street (Primitive Methodist).

F. J. T.

ADULT SCHOOL NOTES.

I am sorry to say I have been so busy during the month that I have had no time to look after my notes, and now the Editor is on my track.

A party of us spent the other week-end at "Uffculme," King's Heath, and had a real good time. Visits to other schools, lectures, conferences, and fresh air! Every one returned delighted with the visit, and every one, there is no doubt, will go again when they get the opportunity.

"Uffculme" is a residence of Mr. Barrow Caddbury which he has given to the movement, to be used for the purposes of a meeting place for the various sections, a convalescent home for sick members; in fact, an adult school hostel. It stands in beautifully laid out grounds, has tea sheds to accommodate us when the needs of the inner man are insistent, conservatories, and playing fields. The house is used for week-end house-parties.

That recalls the fact that the Wolverhampton Sub-Union of Adult Schools had a grand outing there on September 7th last year. About 250 from the various schools joined together, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent. Football competitions, tugs-of-war, racing, etc., was indulged in, and every one thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They said we must have another.

It is now June, and the time has come—if it is going to be done—to make arrangements. I should be glad to receive suggestions, c/o The Editor, or the delegates to the Sub-Union should raise the matter in meeting.

TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MINIMUM WAGE QUESTION.

WHAT LEWIS SAID, AND HOW HE VOTED.

A word of welcome to the *Wolverhampton Worker*. At last the workers of Wolverhampton have the assistance of a paper that will faithfully review the actions of their representatives on the various public bodies. Recent events have proved more than ever how very necessary this is. The policy of misrepresentation and suppression adopted by the papers controlled by the two old orthodox political parties must demonstrate to even the most casual observer that our opponents have fully realised the great strides that have been made in the concentration of the Labour forces in Wolverhampton. And no effort is being spared by them to shake the faith of the workers in their own direct representatives.

At the invitation of the Editor, I am taking the opportunity of reviewing a few of the questions which are and have been engaging the attention of the Council, and which chiefly concern the working classes of the town and district.

The Minimum Wage Question.

A question of serious and vital importance to the working classes is that of the minimum wage. This matter cannot be overestimated, and it is because the importance of this question does not seem to be quite so seriously realised by some of our own people as by the members of the capitalist parties, that I enter more fully into details than I might otherwise have done. I venture to say that so long as the present economic competitive system of society obtains, the wage question is the first question that should engage attention.

After all, our conditions of living are mainly determined or controlled by the amount of purchasing power we possess. Low wages means a correspondingly low standard of living, and without an assured living wage we shall never realise the ideals on which our minds are fixed. It is therefore our business to see to it that those who labour should receive the full value of their hire. Governments and Municipalities should surely be model employers, but there has been some controversy and considerable misrepresentation in the local Press recently regarding the action of the Labour members of the Council with respect to the progress of the Minimum Wage movement. I therefore propose to deal fully with the history of the case, and leave the verdict with my readers.

THESE ARE THE FACTS. In April, 1912, the Gasworkers' Union, No. 3 branch, which includes the Corporation employees, brought a resolution to the Trades Council in favour of asking for a minimum wage of 25s. per week. This was adopted. In May Councillor Hickin gave notice that he would bring forward a resolution at the next meeting of the Council for the establishment of a minimum wage. At the June meeting he moved the following resolution:—

"That in view of the greatly increased cost of living the minimum wage of all male employees (being adults) of the Corporation be 25s. per week."

After considerable discussion Alderman Bantock moved an amendment:—

"That the subject matter be referred to the Finance Committee to report on the cost to the rates and the efficiency of the employees."

The Labour members pressed their resolution, but eventually the amendment was declared to be carried and the matter was remitted. After considerable pressure by the Labour members, in December last the Finance Committee presented their report to the Council. Councillor Mander moved, and Alderman Sir Charles Mander seconded:—

"That this Council approves of the payment of a minimum wage of 24s.

per week to all adult, able-bodied, and efficient male employees of the Corporation working within the Borough, at not more than the present hours of labour, and refers the carrying out of this resolution to the various committees concerned."

Councillor Sharrocks moved, and Councillor Hickin seconded, that 25s. per week be the minimum. It will be noticed that Councillor Mander's resolution did not include employees working outside the Borough, and therefore excluded those working on the Sewage Farm, at Barnhurst, and also at the Waterworks at Tettenhall and Cosford.

The Labour members' amendment was put to the vote, and this I distinctly claim to be the only vote taken on the amount to constitute a minimum wage.

Below are particulars of the voting:—

FOR.	
Councillors:	
Beattie.	Myatt.
Frost.	Sharrocks.
Hickin.	Walsh.
AGAINST.	
The Mayor.	Clarkson.
	Coleman.
Aldermen:	Deanesly.
Bantock.	Evans.
Berrington.	George.
Craddock.	Gibson.
Johnson.	Hodgson.
Lewis.	Hughes.
Mander.	Jeffs.
Marston.	Jennings.
Plant.	Jones.
	Mander.
Councillors:	Marston.
Beardmore.	Moseley.
Beckett.	Pincock.
Brown.	Weaver.
Clark.	Willcock.

It will be observed that the members of the two capitalist parties joined together to defeat Labour. After the Labour amendment was defeated this left the resolution for 24s. per week before the Council.

There was a further amendment moved by Councillor Weaver, seconded by Councillor Beckett, that the report be referred to the various Committees. The Labour members resisted this. However, the amendment to refer the whole question to Committees was carried by nineteen votes to fourteen.

At the last Council meeting Alderman Price Lewis went out of his way to attack the Labour members, and accused them of preventing the Corporation employees from receiving 24s. per week.

Councillor Hickin asked for the minutes relating to the whole question to be read. This was done, and certainly any unbiased person after hearing them read must have agreed that if anyone was responsible for putting the matter back it was those who supported the motion to refer it to the various committees!

When we refer to the division list, what do we find? The Labour members voted solid against referring back. But included amongst the names of those who voted for the amendment to refer the matter back which has delayed a vote being taken on the question of a 24s. per week minimum for at least six months were Alderman Bantock and Councillors Beckett, Brown, Evans, Jones, and Dickinson, all members of Alderman Lewis's party.

Alderman Lewis himself voted against the 25s. minimum which the Corporation employees asked for, and which they are still demanding today!

On May 20 the *Express and Star*, the paper that invariably supports Alderman Lewis and his caucus, continued the attack on the Labour councillors. What shall we say of the person who had the audacity to write that "the testimony of the minutes only made their position more ridiculous." We can only suppose that his political bias has obscured his

THE DUDLEY ROAD
WOLVERHAMPTON AND GENERAL
£25 MONEY SOCIETY, LIMITED.

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

£18—REPAYABLE 2/6 per week. TOTAL COST, £4 15s.
£36—REPAYABLE 5/- per week. TOTAL COST, £9 16s.

OTHER AMOUNTS BY ARRANGEMENT.
Period of Repayment being 3 YEARS and 6 MONTHS.
All business transacted privately and expeditiously.
For further particulars apply to the Secretary,
J. RUSSELL JARVIE, OLD CHURCH STEPS,
EXCHANGE STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

JOSEPH STEWARD,



Optician by Appointment
to the Eye Infirmary.

43, DUNKLEY STREET.

Oculists' Prescriptions and Repairs Accurately made up on the Premises.

POTTER up to

POTTS' China Stall, Market Hall,
for Best and Cheapest from the

POTTERIES. The Workers' Stall.
Cups, Saucers, and Plates from 1/2d. each
Dinner and Pudding Plates from 1d.

Good Work. Promptitude. Moderate Charges

COX & TUSTIN,

Printers & Stationers,

Telephone: CENTRAL ARCADE.
No. 584.

BARRINGTON'S

LIVERPOOL

TEA IS BEST.

CREDIT MERCHANDISE TRADE.

Gentlemen's Suits; Ladies' Costumes,
Tailor-Made; Youths' and Boys' Suits;
Maids' Costumes; Boots and Shoes; General Drapery.

38, St. MARKS RD., WOLVERHAMPTON.

FRESH FISH

Hawked Daily in Whitmore Reans by
J. BELLIS,
Secretary of Gas Workers No. 3 Branch.

S. HYDE, FRUIT, RABBIT, and POTATO DEALER.

24, JAMESON STREET,
WHITMORE REANS, Wolverhampton.
DISTRICT HAWKING DAILY.

MRS DAVIS, 43, EVANS STREET,
Essington and Holly Bank Coal.
Lowest Price for Cash.

(Continued from previous column.)

judgment. As for his further statement that the workers would be well "delivered from their so-called friends," I think we can heartily agree. The rack-renting, property-owning friends, the jerry-building friends, and the sweating employer friends whom he supports—I can well imagine the workers joining in common prayer—"From this class of friends, good Lord, deliver us."

I submit that the attack on the Labour members was actuated by political motives. But it has entirely defeated its own object. The minutes of the proceedings plainly demonstrate that the Labour members were responsible for bringing forward the Minimum Wage Question, and all their votes have been in the direction of its establishment. Just in concluding this matter, I may mention that the members of the Gasworkers' Union, No. 3 Branch, passed a resolution thanking the Labour members for their action in the matter!

T. C.

Printed for the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council by the National Labour Press, at 39, Blackfriars Street, Manchester, and Published by C. W. HULL at 35, Queen Square, Wolverhampton.

Noted for
PURITY, ::
BRILLIANCE,

FRANK MYATT'S ALES

On DRAUGHT
and