

# The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

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## WOLVERHAMPTON'S PROTEST AGAINST ALARMING INCREASE IN PRICE OF FOOD. GOVERNMENT ACTION DEMANDED.

The workers of Wolverhampton assembled in large numbers in the Empire Palace on Sunday evening, January 31, to protest against the enormous increase in the price of necessities, and to demand that the Government should take steps to put an end to the exploitation and plunder of the working classes by the unpatriotic capitalists, whose only thought appears to be to enrich themselves by taking advantage of a nation engaged in a terrible struggle. Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P., president of the Trades Council, who were responsible for the meeting, occupied the chair, and the platform was well filled by representatives from various affiliated Unions.

Mr. Whittaker, in opening the meeting, said the nation had for years spared no expense in order that its Navy could keep the seas clear, not for the benefit of the few, but for the good of all, but in this great national crisis shippers and others were taking a mean advantage by raising their freights tremendously, and bleeding the poor. It behoved the nation to rise and prevent these Shylocks from pursuing the tactics they had adopted.

Mrs. SPROSON moved the following resolution: That this mass meeting of Wolverhampton citizens hereby expresses its strong condemnation of the unjustifiable increases in the prices of necessities, and calls upon the Government to take immediate steps to stop this exploitation of the people by acting upon the suggestions put forward by the War Emergency Workers' National Committee, as follows:

1. That in order to reduce wheat prices the Government should at once take steps to obtain the control of more ships and itself bring wheat from Argentina, Canada, and other sources of supply at the bare cost of transport.

2. That in view of the fact that the short supply of coal in large centres, and the special rise in retail prices, are ascribed largely to the scarcity of shipping, the interruption of railway traffic, and the congestion allowed to take place in the sidings, and in order to ensure the supply of this necessary of life, the Government should (a) Fix maximum prices for coal; (b) Secure that railway trucks, belonging to both the separate railway companies and to private traders, are pooled and run to their fullest economic use; (c) In fixing shipping freights for vessels under their control have regard to normal rates rather than to the excessive rates inflicted by private shipowners, and establish public control of general merchant shipping; and (d) Commandeer coal supplies and distribute to household consumers through municipal or co-operative agencies.

"It seems to me," said Mrs. Sproson, "that the workers of this country are only just awakening to the fact that there is a huge gamble carried on in connection with the food supplies and other necessities of life. For my own part I recognised the fact twenty years ago that such gambling took place—by insurance companies as soon as you are born, by cemetery companies to bury you when you are dead, and by the landlord and a whole train of exploiters all through your lives." (Laughter and applause.)

The Government would have to exercise a very strong arm between the distributor and the consumer if they would enjoy that security which the Government must possess in order to carry on the war successfully. No Government could succeed in war unless the people were at the back of them, and the Government would only get the people at the back of them when they insisted on fair dealing all round. (Hear, hear.)

### The Remedy.

Councillor SHARROCKS, in seconding, appealed to the people of Wolverhampton to join hands with the Labour Party and not be content with merely passing a resolution at that meeting, but bring pressure to bear on their local members of Parliament. They must bear in mind that things would only be righted by sending the right men to represent them in Parliament, and he asked them to think these questions out for themselves, to realise the great power that was in their hands, in order that their children in time to come could march along to the strains of sweeter and nobler music. (Applause.)

Mr. W. M. ADAMSON (Workers' Union), in supporting the resolution, said the question which they were there to discuss that evening was a problem at all times. It had been said that there were certain members of the Cabinet who were interested in shipping concerns. If there was any truth in such a statement they ought to know about it—(hear, hear)—and if it proved to be correct he could only hope that the British people would do something. They were suffering in many other directions at the present time, but they would have to keep this food question to the front until the Government were forced to make some move in connection with the matter. It was for them, as workers, through their Trade Union organisation, to see that the reduction to them was made up by increased wages.

Mr. J. E. DIDRIDGE (A.S.E.) pointed out that at the beginning of the war the Government had found it to be absolutely necessary in the interests of the nation to take over the railways of this country and work them for the advantage of the nation. They were there that night to protest against the exploitation of the workers. They would have to insist upon something being

done. They had got to consider how they were going to live themselves and also consider ways and means of getting out of the difficulty in which they were placed to-day. He wanted to put in a word that evening, he continued, for co-operation, for it was only by co-operation that they would get the better of the monopolist. If they used the Co-operative movement for all it was worth, then they would certainly gain the ascendancy over the people who were bleeding them to-day. (Applause.)

### MR. WALKDEN'S SPEECH.

Mr. A. G. WALKDEN, who had a hearty reception, said he had recently made a journey through the country, and he had this message to bring to them: that there was a great and gathering storm arising through this exploitation of the people by jumping up the prices of the necessities of daily life. He must congratulate the Wolverhampton Trades Council on being one of the first bodies to inaugurate a public meeting on the question. In supporting the resolution he would suggest that copies of same be sent to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, President of the Board of Trade, the leaders of all Parliamentary parties, and *The Daily Citizen*, in order that people in other parts of the country could see what was going on, and thus be instrumental in getting the Government to move quickly in the matter. When, at the commencement of the war, a few wealthy and selfish people were going with their beautiful motor cars to the great stores in London to lay in large stocks of provisions in their mansions there was a general outcry. Even the Maritime League issued a manifesto asking that people should not lay in huge stocks of food and thus force prices up. That was the spirit in England in the early days of the war, and that spirit certainly seemed to possess all classes. Almost immediately after the expiration of the ultimatum to Germany, the railways were taken over by the Government. Everything seemed to be all right; everything was to be kept normal.

There were two common ways of robbing the poor, Mr. Walkden continued, by reducing wages, and also by extending hours of labour, etc., but there was still another way—and one more subtle—namely, to increase the cost of living.

### Under Martial Law.

The speaker said that although it was not generally realised, they were living under martial law at the present time, and the Government had the right to seize every ounce of grain in this country, to take steps immediately to secure supplies of grain in other parts of the Empire, and to set its agents at work to secure grain in Argentina. Were we not always boastful about the colossal resources of our country, our credit, our fine Navy? What was the use of paying for the finest Navy in the world if this exploitation and robbery was to take place? Apart from any arguments which the capitalist Press could adduce in support of the action of shipowners, they had the coal here at home; no foreigner could interfere with that. Why were the Government allowing the coal lords to exploit the people? Of course, they could find plenty of excuses. Again, it was the shipping, they were told. The remedy, however, was very simple. It would be easy enough for the Government to arrange a service of boats from the Tyne to the Thames. The railway sidings were blocked up with coal and it was being allowed to stop there. That this state of things should be allowed in England to-day after they had been at war for six months was abominable, and they had a right to protest against it. (Applause.) He thought, in all seriousness, that if the power of the State—the mighty power that was now in Mr. Asquith's hands—was not going to be used on behalf of the English people at home, there would be very serious trouble indeed in this country. How in the name of common sense was England going to uphold her position? How was she going to take the risks of future possible German wars? If England was to be saved, she could only be saved by adopting the lines of policy laid down in the past by the Labour Party, and by men who understood the needs of the people. He was afraid that if things turned out all right the people of this country would be content to leave the coal in the hands of the coal monopolists, and thus make it possible for these things to occur again. The only way of making things better now and for all time was to see that the principles of nationalisation were put into operation—that the people should control the means of production, distribution, and exchange, not merely for the sake of the material benefits that would accrue from the adoption of these principles, but in order that all that was mean and paltry in industry and commerce should ultimately be stamped out. (Loud applause.)

On being put to the meeting the resolution was carried unanimously.

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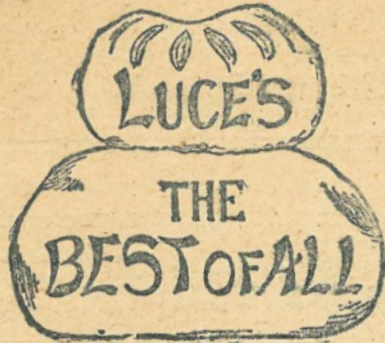
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THE  
Wolverhampton Worker.

MARCH, 1915.

AN INSULT TO LABOUR.

The question of providing the best possible means for dealing with any trade disputes that may arise at the present time in connection with industries that are engaged in providing munitions of war and other products needed for Government use has been given consideration by a Special Committee appointed by the Government. This Committee has issued a report, which has been adopted, and concludes with a recommendation that if disputes arise between employers and workpeople engaged on work for Government purposes no stoppage of work by strike or lock-out should take place, and that if differences cannot be settled by the parties directly concerned, the matter shall be referred to an impartial tribunal for immediate investigation and report to the Government, with a view to a settlement. The workers do not desire to bring about strikes now or at any other time, but the right to cease work is one of the most precious of the

rights of Labour, and under no circumstances should it be lightly set aside, especially when dealing with contractors whose only concern is to make the utmost profit out of Government work. Even if it be admitted that the present National difficulties give some amount of reason for suspending the right to strike in industries that supply munitions of war, etc., it is bad enough for the workers to have it laid down that their disputes shall be referred to another party for final decision. But when the third party that is to have this right of final decision consists entirely of titled gentlemen who have never endured the hardships of existence on a weekly wage, but who have always been associated with the governing and property-owning classes, the position is made absolutely intolerable for the workers.

Composition of the Committee.

The "impartial tribunal" established by the Government to deal with the disputes in question consists of Sir George Askwith, Sir Francis Hopwood, and Sir George Gibb. Sir George Askwith is well known as the leading representative of the Board of Trade in regard to Labour questions, and the workers know that the Board of Trade and its officials are usually anxious to bring about settlements that are not to the disadvantage of the employing class. Sir Francis Hopwood was a former chief of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade, and afterwards (like Colonel Yorke) became a railway director. Sir George Gibb was formerly Solicitor and afterwards General Manager to the North-Eastern Railway, of which he subsequently became a director. After that he was brought to London to be Managing Director of the London Electric Railways, and left that position to take up a more lucrative one as Chairman of the Road Board. Whilst acting as a railway manager he frequently fought the employees during their disputes with railway companies.

Monstrously Unfair.

Such gentlemen cannot be expected to regard Labour questions from the standpoint of the workers, nor to realise the hardships with which they are surrounded from the cradle to the grave. Such gentlemen know nothing whatever of the deadening and debilitating effect of excessive manual labour (they have never done any), and yet, they alone will decide questions of overtime. They do not appreciate the long, long struggle and the sacrifices entailed by Trade Unionists to establish working rules that will safeguard and maintain their position in the industry, and yet these gentlemen alone are to decide questions regarding the innovation of boy labour, women labour, and unskilled labour that is likely to be a perpetual menace to the skilled mechanics. In short, the Government arrangement under which all such matters and wages questions are to be decided by these three titled gentlemen is monstrously unfair, and is one that is likely to cause far more difficulty and hindrance to the satisfactory settlement of disputes than any other factor in the present situation. Unless the tribunal is revised and organised Labour is given an equal voice upon it there will soon be serious trouble in the industries concerned. The workers who have given freely and gladly of their best to help the State during the present National emergency should not be either cajoled or coerced into accepting an arrangement that is quite unjust to themselves and partial to the wealthy contractors who are known to be coining money out of the needs of the nation.

W.

AN EXTRAORDINARY ACTION.

We confess to a feeling of shame that one of Wolverhampton's public bodies should have placed themselves in the unenviable position which the local Education Committee now occupy. That any employer should refuse his consent to an employee who desires to serve his country is bad enough, but when such action is taken by a committee of a public body which has passed a resolution to keep open the positions of servants who join the forces, the position is infinitely worse. Dr. Badger (the school medical officer) will have to relinquish his office in order to obey the call of duty, and the town for the same reason will lose the services of an extremely capable and valued servant. We have found it very difficult to understand the attitude of the committee on the question. We were told that the children must not be allowed to suffer, but our experience of the attitude of the Education Committee in the past compels us to regard this plea as perhaps the most sickening piece of hypocrisy we have yet come across. The real reason was more concerned with financial considerations and the question whether the Government grant would be forthcoming as usual if the doctor went. And when, to their surprise, the Board of Education proved themselves to be more patriotic than the local committee they had not the courage to

change their attitude and give the doctor the required leave

Bullying the Labour Representatives.

Instead, the very people who have been crying out for recruits turned round and bullied a Labour representative because he had the courage to demand that justice should be done to Dr. Badger. The reports of the "scene" in the committee room have, no doubt, been read with considerable relish, but how many have stopped to consider its significance? This is but one instance of the treatment of working class representatives on various local bodies. Because they are few in number the Labour members seem to be regarded as a legitimate target for abuse, and far from being of rare occurrence, we have reason to believe that such scenes are not infrequent on some committees. Committee meetings may be private, but after consideration we say that if much more of this kind of thing goes on we shall not hesitate to divulge the details of such proceedings from the facts at our disposal. Mr. J. Whitaker, J.P., was refused an opportunity of speaking at the Education Committee on a subject of public importance, and he was perfectly justified in his protest. This extraordinary incident in an extraordinary series of meetings will convey a useful lesson. However, it is to be hoped that the new-found regard for the children on the part of the Education Committee will be permanent, but we are sceptical on the point. G.

SIR HORATIO BREVITT.

PRESENTATION AT WOLVERHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

Practically the only business of interest at the last meeting of the Wolverhampton Town Council was the presentation of a silver vase and an illuminated scroll to Sir Horatio Brevitt to commemorate the conferment of his knighthood.

Engraved on the front of the vase are the borough arms, crest, and motto, and the following inscription:

Presented by the Council of the Borough of Wolverhampton, with enclosed congratulatory resolution, to the Town Clerk, Sir Horatio Brevitt, in commemoration of the knighthood conferred upon him by His Majesty King George V. on the 16th January, 1915.

A. BALDWIN BANTOCK (Mayor).  
TWEEDALE MEABY (Deputy Town Clerk).  
5th February, 1915.

On the reverse side of the vase is engraved Sir Horatio Brevitt's coat of arms, crest, label, and motto.

The Deputy Town Clerk (Mr. Tweedale Meaby) having read the resolution of the Council, congratulating Sir Horatio on the dignity of knighthood conferred upon him,

The Mayor said there was no one present or in the town but who was delighted that the honour had been conferred. Every member of the Council who had passed the mayoral chair knew that those who had not done so need have no fear when asked by their colleagues to do so so long as they had Sir Horatio to assist them. He was always willing and anxious to give every possible help to every member of the Council. They were all delighted to acknowledge his sterling qualities. Sir Horatio had throughout his life been absolutely true to Wolverhampton, notwithstanding that he had had tempting offers to take him from the town. He had always placed the welfare of Wolverhampton before any consideration of personal advancement, and they knew that he had refused salaries which had been offered to him higher than that he received here.

Aldermen F. D. Gibbons, L. Johnson, Sir Chas. Mander, G. R. Thorne, M.P., Councillors Weaver, Skidmore, Hughes, and Evans added their congratulations.

Councillor Sharrocks, in offering congratulations on behalf of the Labour members, said he understood that Sir Horatio Brevitt was the only Town Clerk in the United Kingdom whose name had appeared in the New Year's Honours List. Though as a rule such honours were conferred for party reasons, it was a question of real merit in the case of Sir Horatio. He had received the honour for services well and faithfully rendered, and he considered it a great compliment to the citizens of Wolverhampton. He hoped that Sir Horatio Brevitt would be spared to guide them for many years to come.

The Mayor then presented the vase and resolution of congratulation to Sir Horatio amidst loud applause.

Sir Horatio Brevitt's reply consisted in a comprehensive reference to his work as Town Clerk of the town. The honour which had been conferred upon him was indeed a great one, and one which he could hardly even at the present realise he possessed. He, however, would do his best to maintain its dignity, and he felt that he would be best doing that by doing his best for the Council and town of Wolverhampton, and for the country in which he lived. In the course of his municipal life he had seen that it was necessary to take an interest not only in the town in which he was Town Clerk, but as an inhabitant of the country. They could not have lived in the country without noticing that there were difficulties in municipal work, and as Town Clerk of Wolverhampton he was appalled by the costs which the Council was called upon to pay in respect to Private Bill legislation, and it occurred to him to ask whether the time had not arrived when town councils should be allowed to legislate for themselves, and without the intervention of the Authorities of the Public Health Act, to which they were then subject. He was glad to say that the efforts which were made (in broadening the powers of local authorities) had met with success.

Having referred to former occasions on which he had received congratulations from the Council, Sir Horatio said he thought the Council would give him credit that he had never had any personal axe to grind, or any personal interest to serve, and that in all that he had done he had conscientiously done it for the benefit of their good old town. (Applause.)



The Queen has sent a shawl to Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson, of Swaffham, Norfolk, in recognition of the laudable fact that she has six sons serving with the Colours.

I am not certain whether the WORKER is read by the ladies at Court or by the Royal Family, but it might be pointed out in the same quarter that Mrs. Hodgkiss, of 318, Hordern-road, Wolverhampton, has every reason to feel highly proud of her five sons, all of whom are enlisted with His Majesty's forces.

The Mayoress of Wolverhampton would do well to bring this to the notice of her Majesty.

A facetious gunner of the R.F.A., writing from the trenches to a friend (says Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P.), emphasises what may be called the "natural" advantages of his situation in the following:

You want to go in for the open-air treatment, like me, live under the ground, where the landlords don't trouble you. We never have anyone call for the rent here, and you can walk in and out without knocking. So war is, apparently, not without its compensations over yonder!

In the course of a discussion upon the sordid conditions obtaining at Cradley, the Rev. J. Davison Brown recently stated at a Free Church Councils' conference in that district that "the drink traffic was really at the root of it all. All the social evils were bound up in the drink question."

While I quite agree that the drink evil is one of our most pressing social problems, and that it is the cause of much suffering, I cannot associate myself entirely with the rev. gentleman. I admit that all social problems are bound up in the drink question, inasmuch as I believe that social conditions are largely responsible for drink, rather than that drink is the cause of poverty.

I was, therefore, pleased to observe that a lay delegate had the commendable courage to reply that he was afraid the people who talked about Cradley in this strain were those who knew the least about it.

I think the following early testimony of Mr. John Burns (since M.P.) should serve to expose the error and absurdity of the claim that drink is the chief cause of poverty and misery:

They lie in their teeth when they say that the workers are drunken and improvident. Here stand I, a skilled artisan, a tectotalter, a Malthusian, a non-smoker. I have been out of work for four months. I haven't tasted food for twenty-four hours. There stands my wife. She has turned the ribbons of her bonnet over and over again to make them look respectable. If this be my condition, what must it be for men who are not mechanics and have families to maintain!

It has been rightly said by another that if the workers are simply content to be temperate, and to allow Landlordism and Capitalism to use their powers unchecked, then the virtue of abstinence will curse the abstainer and bless the monopolist.

While not doubting the sincerity of the Rev. J. Davison Brown, it seems to me that he is not conversant with the shrewd philosophy of the ruthless Shylocks of monopoly.

That weird question, "Is a man too old at 40?" has been debated to a wearisome extent over a long period in the columns of the heartless capitalistic Press.

The subjoined advertisement, appearing at the time of writing in one of the local evening papers, raises another kindred query: "At what age is a woman too old for work?" Thus runs the "ad.":

WANTED, respectable Person, about 60, to do work of four-roomed house, and take invalid out in bathchair; help given small salary; plain, comfortable home.—Address, T4.

Perhaps one of those titled ladies who are fond of writing so intimately upon feminine subjects in the leading journals might feel chivalrous enough—in these courageous times—to tackle the job; it would be interesting to behold Mrs. Powder-and-Puffs obtaining some personal knowledge regarding this latter question.

My missus (who is barely 60 years) has jibbed at the suggestion that she might be disposed to apply, in face of the grim fact that our daily rations are shortening. She characterises the proposition as a monstrously stiff one; and how dare I dispute it?

I always discourage the common practice among a multitude of people of regularly taking in a certain type of Sunday newspaper.

For the life of me, I cannot comprehend what consolation the harassed worker can derive from spending a considerable portion of his precious day of rest in the reading of the exploits of Blue Beards, Burglars, Boozers, Bankrupts, and such-like unenviable characters, which a number of Sunday journals almost exclusively glory in.

"If modern trade unionism does not mean a living wage, then throw it into the waste-paper basket of human hopes and errors."

This paragraph might be dedicated very fittingly to our Liberal Government, whose suggestion that trade union rules should be relaxed would, if entertained, neutralise the labours of a century of trade unionism to secure for the workers a fair standard of life.

A disgusting "scrap-of-paper" proposition, destined to become historic in the bitter memories of British trade unionism.

# ENGLISH "KULTUR."

"THE GERMANS COULD NOT HAVE DONE WORSE!"

## WHAT HAPPENED IN GOUGH STREET?

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

WOLVERHAMPTON, January 29, 1915.

"Your King and country need you!" This is the appeal which for the last six months has been heard on every hand, placarded on all the walls, and even set to music and sung from practically every stage in the land and from many platforms where recruiting speeches have been delivered. We have been told, moreover, that our King and country need men to join the Army to stem the onrush of the German hordes, and we have been told of the havoc wrought in little Belgium, of homes broken up, of women and children killed.

With all this I have been profoundly impressed. I have watched our men go gladly to war. I have seen them leave behind their wives and little children, because they were anxious to avenge Belgium's wrongs, and because they were told their loved ones would be cared for. And I have marvelled and rejoiced at the manifestations of the indomitable British spirit which enables a man to turn his back on all he holds dear because an action has been committed which has outraged his sense of justice and compelled him to take up arms in defence of Right, even though Might consisted of the greatest and most efficient army the world has ever seen. England, we are told, would never tolerate the subjection of Europe to a régime so ruthless as the German

"The Germans couldn't have done any worse!" The speaker was a girl of 17. She was not in Belgium, or the North of France, or even in Poland. The remark was made at No. 42, Gough-street, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton.

### A Ruined Home.

Looking round, one could see the justice of the remark, for it was a ruined home in the truest sense of the word. The front window of the house had been removed bodily, the doors were taken from their hinges, the firegrates were broken. At the aperture where the window had been sacks were hung to keep out the cold—it was one of the coldest days in January—and a bedroom door had been fixed somehow where the front door should have been. The Germans, indeed, could not have done much worse.

The house at present is occupied by a Mrs. Lowndes, with her eight children. John Lowndes, the husband, was one of those who answered their country's call, having enlisted in the 6th S. Staffordshire Regiment (Kitchener's Army). Previous to enlisting last November, Lowndes had been very short of work. He had been employed by a coal merchant, but after the war broke out his work fell off, and shortly stopped altogether. He later secured a job at digging potatoes, but this did not last long, and in a short time he found himself again out of work. But a wife and eight children have got to live somehow, and, failing to find work, he decided to enlist, and announced his decision to his wife in this way: "You can't starve. You'll have your money if I go."

### Struggles of a Poor Family.

It will be seen that for some time the husband had not been able to support the home. The eldest boy, aged 15, was at work in a tube manufactory, earning 9s. per week, but when the war broke out he, too, fell out of employment. Mrs. Lowndes therefore went out to work at charring, and managed to bring in a little money. But could it be expected that 10 persons, the youngest of whom was a baby six months old, could exist on the mother's meagre earnings? Something had to go. The first necessity of life, I presume, is food. That must be got. To get food something had to be left. As was only to be expected, the rent was not paid, and it happened that when Lowndes joined the Army 17s. 6d. was owing to the landlord—not an appalling amount.

However, things went a little better after her husband enlisted, and Mrs. Lowndes found herself in receipt of 24s. per week separation allowance and subsistence for children, which was later increased to 26s. Then, she told me, she paid her rent regularly, the amount being 3s. 6d. per week. It could hardly be expected that she could pull up the arrears of 17s. 6d. The rent collector—a woman—evidently did not think so. As I have previously remarked, the firegrates were broken, so Mrs. Lowndes asked for necessary repairs to be executed, but was refused, as was also a request to attend to the door, which was then hanging on one hinge. It is remarkable how a small sum of money worries some people, and it seems that this 17s. 6d. was causing a great deal of worry in one particular quarter.

Not even the fact that Lowndes had gone with others to risk his life to help to make that 17s. 6d. secure, as well as all the petty three-shillings-and-sixpences in the future, could wipe out the agony of lost rent.

### The Rent Books.

So steps of retaliation were set in operation. One day the rent collector refused to take the rent, thus making the first fortnight arrears since the husband went to the war. Since then, up to the time of my interview (January 28), she had not called. It will be seen that any arrears over and above the 17s. 6d. were due to the rent collector not taking money which was there if she wanted it. However, the matter

was not allowed to rest. Here let me point out that I have seen two rent books, and I have taken my figures therefrom. The first one was in the name of John Lowndes. The new rent book, however, was made out in the name of Mrs. Lowndes. It will be easily understood that the idea was, if possible, to make the wife responsible. It was impossible to get money from a man who was at the war, and the easiest way was to make the woman liable. But, as Mrs. Lowndes remarked, her husband had given her no authority to have her name on the rent book.

But matters were moving apace. Mrs. Lowndes received the following notice, under registered cover:

To Mrs. Lowndes.

I hereby give you notice to quit and deliver up possession on the 25th day of January next of the House and Premises you now occupy, situate and being No. 42, Gough-street, Wolverhampton.

Dated this 18th day of January, 1915.

(Signed) M. S. WILKINSON.

Now it will easily be seen that such a notice could only be sent to the "occupier" of the house, meaning, of course, the person to whom the house is let and whose name appears on the rent book. The reason for altering the name on the rent book is now quite clear. And, by the way, I might mention that I have heard that the practice of altering the name on the books is being generally adopted by landlords in this district. Its significance will be realised.

Well, Mrs. Lowndes went to the Town Hall, and was, I believe, told that she was all right, and that neither landlord nor rent collector could do anything in the way of eviction. That, of course, is the law, which says that landlords must first get an order from the Court.

### How It Was Done.

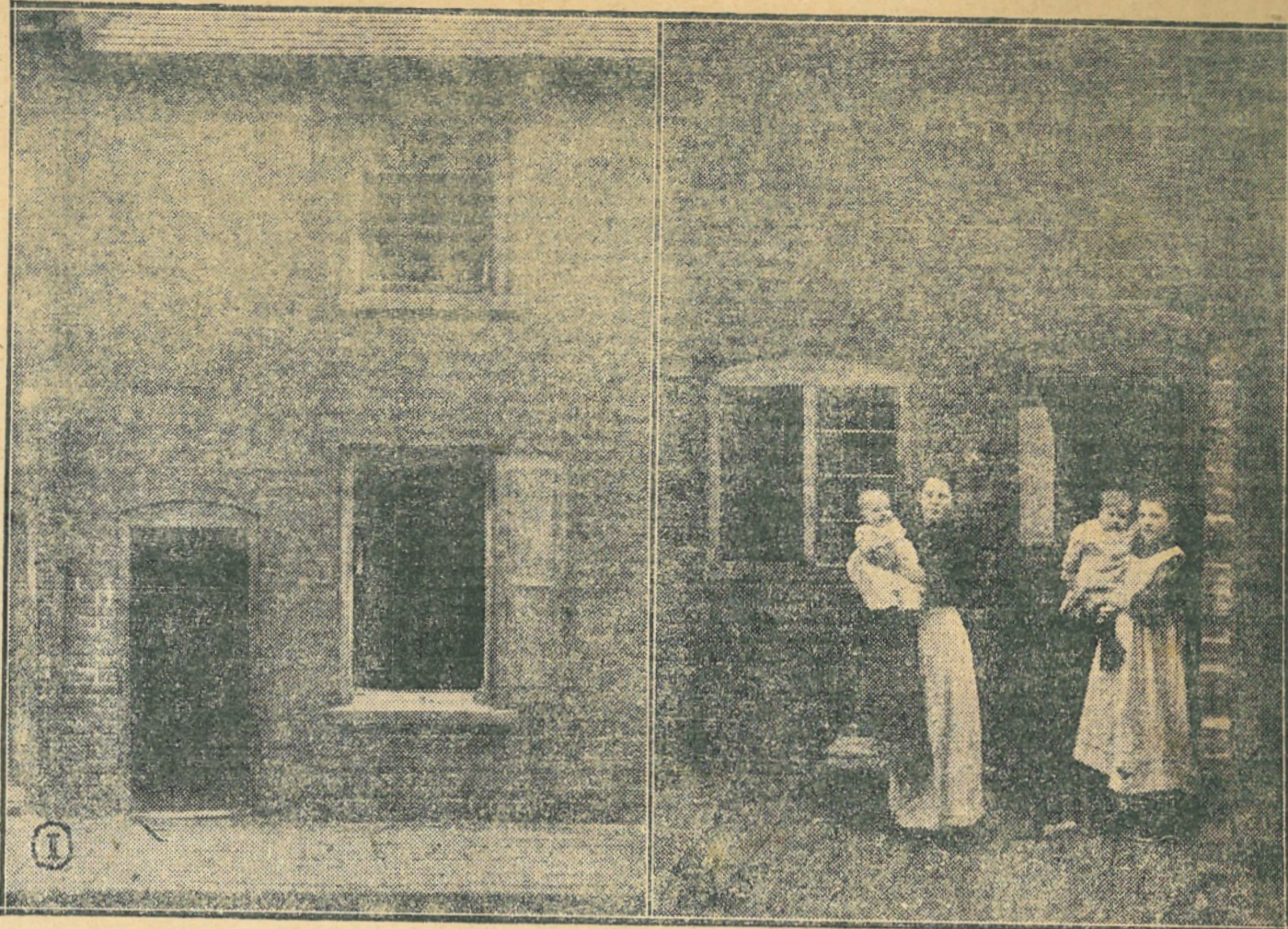
But landlords seem to be neither respecters of persons or the law. While it might be difficult to obtain an order for eviction or distraint, there are other methods which do not come within the law. It may be illegal to forcibly eject, but the law apparently does not interfere with a property owner doing what he likes with his own property. On the 27th January, two days after the notice to quit expired in the absence of Mrs. Lowndes, three men turned up and removed the front window frame on the ground floor bodily, the front door, the door connecting the two ground floor rooms, and the back door, and also took away half the back window. The plight of the family may be guessed.

The weather was bitterly cold, and Mrs. Lowndes informed me that four of the children had but recently recovered from bronchitis and inflammation of the lungs.

"I dare not write and tell my husband what has happened," said Mrs. Lowndes. What, indeed, would any man think if he found that in his absence such a scandalous thing had been perpetrated? Is this going to encourage recruiting? Is this going to make any man feel at ease in leaving his family to the tender mercies of the property-owning class?

Talk about Germans ruining homes! Talk about killing women and children! What is likely to happen to four children who have lately recovered from lung trouble when they are compelled to sleep in bitterly cold weather in a house with no windows and doors? Where does English culture come in? Possibly the people responsible have read the Belgian Commission's report on German atrocities and have been shocked, and possibly have Pharsaically lifted their eyes in pious thanks that "they are not as other men!" But I leave my readers to judge.

For myself, I agreed with the 17-year-old daughter of Mrs. Lowndes when she remarked "The Germans could not have done any worse!"



(1) Front view of house in Gough Street, showing how the window and door were removed. (2) Back view. The back door and half the window were taken away. It is possible to look straight through into the street, as will be seen in the photo. Mrs. Lowndes and three of her children are standing at the doorway.

## VICTIMISED FOR PATRIOTISM.

### WOLVERHAMPTON EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S EXTRAORDINARY ACTION.

At the meeting of the Wolverhampton Education Committee, held on January 26, Alderman Johnson presiding, the Primary Sub-Committee reported that an application had been received from Dr. Badger, School Medical Officer, for leave of absence for the duration of the war in order that he might accept a commission in the Medical Department of H.M. Forces. They recommended that in the event of Dr. Badger accepting a commission, it would be impossible to satisfactorily proceed, under the advice of a *locum tenens*, with the School Medical Service and the establishment of a School Clinic, and that under these circumstances, if Dr. Badger does accept a commission, it must be understood that such action will determine his engagement, and steps be taken to appoint another permanent officer.

A letter was also read from the School Medical Officer stating that the work of medical inspection could be efficiently carried on without serious interruption during his absence, as the present assistant would naturally be appointed Acting School Medical Officer; also the services of a temporary lady assistant would no doubt be secured to assist her.

The CHAIRMAN said that it was rather a surprise to him that Dr. Badger had sent the letter to the Committee. The School Medical Officer had been informed by the Committee that if there was urgent need of his services at the front for the assistance and care of the wounded the Education Committee would not hesitate for one moment to grant him the necessary leave. As it was, however, there was not any urgent need for his services.

### Mr. Whittaker's Criticism.

Mr. J. WHITTAKER said that during the present crisis it was very unwise for a public body to place any barrier in the way of Dr. Badger, or anyone else who wished to assist their country. It was no use crying to the man in the street that "his King and country needed him," if, should that man join the Army and subsequently receive injury, there was no medical man to attend him. He would further say that since the meeting of the sub-committee when the question was discussed, the newspapers had shown that there was a great need for medical men at the present moment. He did not think it was impossible to do without Dr. Badger temporarily. The step the Committee had taken was, in his opinion, derogatory to their own and their country's interests. To tell a servant of theirs that if he joined the Army his post would not be kept open for him, was most unwise. He would say good luck to the doctor for offering his services as a medical man, and as an amendment moved that the question be referred back for consideration.

Councillor SHARROCKS seconded the amendment.

Father DARMODY said that it was an unpleasant matter to discuss, especially at the time like the present. He did not think that any public body would place any obstacle in the way of anyone should his services be required. It was not correct to say that there was a great need for medical men in the Army at the present moment.

Councillor SHARROCKS pointed out to the Committee that a resolution had been passed by the Town Council to the effect that any servant of the Council desirous of joining the Forces would be granted leave of absence for that purpose.

The MAYOR said that they had the ruling of the Town Clerk on this matter, and he had given the decision that this resolution did not apply

to chief officials in the employ of the Corporation.

Councillor SHARROCKS continued that he was not talking about rulings—he was

### Talking Commonsense.

As far as he could see it applied to all employees of the Council; they were all workmen or servants, whether they were chief officials or not. He had a son and also a son-in-law at the front, and from what he had heard from them, there was the utmost need for medical men there, and he certainly thought that a public body ought to be the last people to place any obstacle in the way of men who wished to offer their services. They ought to do all they possibly could to encourage doctors to enlist. They should take the example of the Board of Guardians, who had appointed a temporary man in the place of one of their servants who had joined the Forces. Instead of asking the doctor to send in his resignation, they should see that his position was kept open for him. They would be lacking in their duty if they prevented any particular medical man from offering his services.

The CHAIRMAN said that if Dr. Badger went it would mean the dropping of the scheme for the medical treatment of necessitous school children. The Committee would not be able to proceed with this important work. They were determined that the work should not "shuffle along."

Mr. J. WHITTAKER's amendment to refer the matter back for reconsideration was then put, and on a division being challenged the voting was as follows:

For the amendment: Councillor Sharrocks, Mr. Whittaker (2).

Against: The Chairman, the Mayor, Councillors Beattie, Clark, Hodgson, Jones, Mander, Painter, Weaver, Rev. J. J. Darmody, Miss Pearson, Rev. H. Tunnadine, Mr. S. M. Wright (13).

Councillor Coleman and Mr. Balmer did not vote.

The amendment was declared lost, and on the motion being put it was carried.

### A Hurried Meeting.

In the ordinary course this would have been a recommendation to the Town Council, but there were evidently some qualms of conscience, and a Special Education Committee was hurriedly called to meet half-an-hour before the Town Council "to give further consideration to the application made by the School Medical Officer for leave of absence, and to pass any necessary resolution in reference thereto."

Alderman JOHNSON (Chairman), in explaining the reason for calling the meeting, stated that since the last meeting it was thought desirable to receive the advice of the Board of Education on the question. The Board advised the Committee to give Dr. Badger the necessary leave of absence, as the Board was satisfied that there was a need for doctors in the Forces. The deputation were also informed that the War Office had assured the Board of Education that they must be in a position to have an immediate call on a sufficient number of doctors. The deputation were given a satisfactory assurance that the Education Committee would not suffer financially owing to the absence of Dr. Badger, and he therefore moved that the resolution dealing with this question should be withdrawn from the minutes, and that a resolution be submitted giving Dr. Badger the necessary leave of absence.

Alderman RICHARDS said if every educational or municipal body were to prevent their officials

(Continued on next page.)

**VICTIMISED FOR PATRIOTISM.**

(Continued from page 3.)

from offering their services to the country, it would constitute a very serious injury to the whole fighting force. He hoped the Committee would be unanimous in their decision to allow Dr. Badger the necessary leave.

Councillor SHARROCKS said he did not approve of the Chairman going to London to interview the Board without first consulting the Education Committee. The Board's representatives should have come to Wolverhampton in order that all the members could have heard what was said. He was very pleased that the Education Committee, like sensible men, now realised that the country should have the first call upon their men. He knew that medical men were urgently needed at the front, from communications he had received from relatives. Of course, he was very pleased to hear that the members of the Education Committee were so interested in the welfare of the children, but in his opinion the men who were fighting their battles at the front ought to have the first call. There did not appear, however, to be any sympathy for them.

The Rev. J. J. DARMODY said he did not think that the extreme action of interviewing the Board was necessary to take. It could not be too strongly emphasised that it was for the Education Committee and not the Board to decide whether or not one of their servants should go.

**A "Scene."**

As it was now three o'clock, the time for the Town Council meeting, the CHAIRMAN expressed the hope that the Committee would come to a decision there and then.

Three or four members rose at once to speak on the subject. Some members cried out for an adjournment, whilst both Councillor Evans and Alderman Gibbons came up as messengers from the Mayor to say "that they were waiting downstairs." Alderman Johnson thereupon proposed that the minute be suspended, and the subject further considered later.

The meeting at once exclaimed "Aye!" and rose to go, but Mr. Whittaker, who had several times previously attempted to speak, sprang to his feet and said, "I protest. As the mover of the amendment at the previous meeting I have a right to speak." He thumped on the table, and instantly brought up Alderman Johnson to shout back, "You are stating what is not correct."

"I am not," retorted Mr. WHITTAKER. Alderman JOHNSON: You have just done it. Mr. WHITTAKER: I have done nothing of the kind. (Cries of "Order!" and "Sit down!") "You have no right," proceeded Mr. WHITTAKER, "to withdraw the resolution." "What!" exclaimed Alderman JOHNSON. "Have I no right when I am in conflict with you, or has anybody any right except you? I was not treated in that way by you." "I put it to you all," went on the CHAIRMAN. "Have I prevented Mr. Whittaker from speaking?"

"Yes," Mr. WHITTAKER said. Alderman JOHNSON: It is untrue. Mr. WHITTAKER: It isn't. Alderman JOHNSON: It is. Mr. WHITTAKER: I have a right to speak. Alderman Gibbons tried to be peacemaker, but the disputants still faced one another, one shouting: "It is untrue," the other: "I have a right to speak." Mr. Whittaker persisted that Alderman Johnson had done it before, whilst the Chairman frequently appealed to the members to ask whether he had stopped Mr. Whittaker speaking?

Finally Alderman Gibbons's efforts prevailed, and the incident closed.

**A Third Meeting.**

Subsequently a further meeting was held, when the CHAIRMAN (Alderman Johnson) moved that the former resolution be rescinded and that Dr. Badger be granted the necessary leave applied for.

COUNCILLOR HODGSON seconded. Replying to a question, the CHAIRMAN said that the difference between the pay received by Dr. Badger from the Education Committee and the Army pay was very small, and the same generosity that had been extended to their other servants who had enlisted would be extended to Dr. Badger should he join the forces. He understood that a commission was awaiting Dr. Badger, the pay in connection with which was £350 per year, an amount very near his present salary.

Mr. WHITTAKER said that they ought to be quite clear, and if they allowed Dr. Badger to go he should be treated generously. Not only would the difference between the pay have to be made up, but his position would have to be maintained, in order that his wife and family would not suffer.

THE CHAIRMAN said he did not think it was in the mind of any member of the Education Committee to treat Dr. Badger differently from anyone else. The Board of Education, he said, had given their opinion that the absence of Dr. Badger would not interfere much with the carrying on of the work.

THE MAYOR said that at first his own view was that the children should have the first call, but after consultation with the Board of Education he was of opinion that Dr. Badger should be allowed to go.

ALDERMAN RICHARDS said the need of the country was very urgent, and no one ought to place anything in the way of this need. The resolution recommending that the previous resolution be rescinded and that Dr. Badger be granted leave of absence was then put, and on a division being taken was declared lost, the voting being: For the resolution, 5; against, 12.

**TRADE UNION RULES.**

**MR. A. G. WALKDEN REPLIES TO GOVERNMENT SUGGESTION.**

At the meeting of the Trades and Labour Council, held on Thursday, February 18, the suggestion of Mr. Tennant, M.P., on behalf of the Government, that Trade Union rules should be suspended during the War was considered, and an important speech was delivered by Mr. Walkden (prospective Labour candidate for Wolverhampton West).

Mr. WALKDEN said they all knew the history of the Trade Union movement, the bitter antagonism through which they had lived and struggled, how they had gone through the period of intimidation, victimisation, and of all the hardships which had been placed upon them whenever their opponents had power to do so. Dealing with the suggestion that Trade Unions should relax their rules and regulations during this crisis, the speaker said that if the Trade Unions did relax their rules they would require a guarantee that the power of the State should be used to uphold their regulations when the crisis had passed. The Government wanted the Trade Unions to agree to children being employed, to agree to overtime regulations being set aside; they wanted them also to agree to all sorts of innovations, but they knew that when things were normal again, it would be very hard to get back again to the position they held before the War commenced. He rejoiced that the workers of England felt that the freedom and the honour of England were as dear to them as to anyone else in the land. Every section of the workers had responded magnificently to the nation's call. Everything had been done fairly and honourably by the workers, and on their part the Government ought to deal loyally and honourably with the workers. (Hear, hear.)

**The Cost of Living.**

The Trade Unionist wanted the loyalty and support of the Government, and they had a right to claim it. (Applause.) What was their economic position? Since the commencement of the present century, the cost of living had risen 16.8 per cent. During the present year, the cost of living had gone up 25 per cent., thus they arrived at the figure of 41½ per cent., getting on for 50 per cent.

If the workers on their part gave way to the Government without proper safeguards the strong position they had built up for themselves through years of sacrifice, they would find themselves when the War was over in a condition of things comparable in state to the Hungry Forties.

The Trade Unionists were not at all satisfied that it was necessary to make the changes that were being made in certain industries under the present circumstances. In connection with the railways the companies were bringing in young girls to work for half the wages that were paid to men. The President of the Board of Trade had had the particulars submitted to him, and all the reply that was forthcoming was that he had no observation to make on the matter.

At every point it was found there was more need to-day than ever for strong and united action on the part of the workers to safeguard their position.

They ought to be very guarded indeed before they gave way, and make any such agreement as the Government had suggested. He was glad to see that the Labour movement, far from lagging behind, as some people had anticipated when the War commenced, was growing stronger every month as the period of the great national crisis went on. He hoped they would do all they could to strengthen their position and safeguard it in every possible way. (Loud applause.)

A vote of thanks to Mr. Walkden was moved by Mr. C. HICKEN and seconded by Mr. ADAMSON.

**A Serious Outlook.**

Mr. C. SMITH said the Government were acquiescing in the exploitation of child labour, and he thought they were justified in exposing the fact that they were not assisting the Trade Union movement in the least.

So far as men were concerned, the outlook in the future was very serious indeed, when they remembered that should the employment of female labour be allowed the men who were sacrificing their lives at the Front would at the conclusion of the War probably be walking the streets out of work.

It was the duty of all of them to see that when the men came back from the Front they would have no ground for complaint. It seemed to him that the very least they could do was to oppose with all their power the tendency on the part of the Government to encourage female labour.

Mrs. ADAMSON (Workers' Union) protested against women being used at this time to blackleg the men. Her own Union had intimated to the employers in the tube trade that if women were introduced they would have to be paid the same wages as men, and every Trade Union would have to take up the same attitude.

Councillor BENT (N.U.R.) and Mr. J. E. DIDERIDGE (A.S.E.) also supported.

The vote of thanks was heartily accorded, and Mr. Walkden briefly replied.

**OTHER TRADES COUNCIL BUSINESS**

CHILD LABOUR.—Mr. HARPER (Boot and Shoe Operatives) moved the following resolution: "That this Trades Council strongly protests against the lowering of the age at which children may leave school, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Board of Education, Home Office, the Board of Trade, and the local Members of Parliament." Mr. Harper said the L.G.B. were allowing children to leave school,

in some cases at the age of 11 years. As workers, they ought to recognise that they had had an uphill work in getting the present age for school children in force. So sure as they allowed the age to be lowered in agricultural districts, the employers in the industrial areas would require the same thing to be done in their case. It was simply an evasion of the law, and it was in the interests of the nation that children should not be allowed to leave school at such an early age. As was pointed out in the WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER, Darlaston was making an application for children to leave school twelve months earlier than they had done in the past, and they must not allow this state of things to grow. He himself had taken part in the agitation which resulted in the placing on the Statute Book of the Elementary Schools Act in 1870, and he pointed out that as an outcome of an agitation by the Wolverhampton Trades Council in 1889, the Higher Grade School in the town was brought into being. Instead of lowering the school age, they looked forward to the time when children would remain at school until they reached the age of 15—(applause).—Mr. J. E. DIDERIDGE (A.S.E.) seconded. He said that an educated democracy was a great asset to any nation. They well knew that an educated workman was not going to be ruled by unscrupulous employers. There was plenty of labour to be had if the employers would pay the right price for it, instead of getting children to work for them—(hear, hear).—Mr. K. J. NEWMAN (Postmen's Federation) supported, and said that the employers were doing their best to make capital out of the National crisis, and instead of offering to share their prosperity by paying higher wages to town workers to come on the land, they sought rather the exploitation of child labour.—Councillor BENT (N.U.R.) supported on the ground that it behoved every worker to see that every child should get the best education possible, even if they had to support a measure in opposition to the wishes of such parents, who, by their poverty, might be tempted to allow their children to earn a shilling or two by undercutting the men, he contended they would be justified. He further supported on the ground that all children should have an equal opportunity in life. How could it be said that all people had an equal chance in life, when the workman's child left school at the early age of 13, whilst the children of the well-to-do and employing class went on with their education in many cases up to the age of 18 years?—Mr. A. G. WALKDEN said it was perfectly clear that unless organised labour maintained and developed its strength all that it had won in past years would be swept away during the course of present circumstances. As one who was bound to leave school at 13 years of age and had since had to burn a great deal of midnight oil to make up for what was denied him in the days of his boyhood, he spoke with considerable feeling on the subject. He was of opinion that right throughout the length and breadth of the land all Labour should protest most emphatically against that state of things. He learned that children were being taken from school at the age of eleven years to work on the land when they ought to be developing their mental and physical strength at school. He had no sympathy whatever, he continued, with the rural employers who took such an advantage of the children. If they had been prepared to pay the proper price for labour, they would have had the necessary labour long ago. They would have to pay men instead of exploiting little children.—Mr. J. H. JACKSON (Typographical Association) said the Union to which he belonged had a membership of 28,000, and the percentage of unemployment or partial unemployment was as great as 60 per cent. He thought that if the rural or the town employers would offer a decent wage it would be an inducement to the hard-bit members of the printing trade to assist temporarily on the land or in any other way at the present time. It should be made clear to the capitalists that other reserves of labour could be tapped, if necessary, rather than child labour should again be introduced into industry.—The resolution was carried unanimously.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.—Moved by Mr. BAGLEY (secretary), seconded by Mr. DIDERIDGE, and carried:—That the Workers' War Emergency Committee be asked to press the Executive Committee of the National Relief Fund for the publication of a full financial statement showing the character of the disbursements from the Fund.

BALANCE SHEET AND REPORT.—The annual balance sheet and report of the Trades Council was submitted. Mr. C. HICKEN (Tinplate Workers' Auditor) said it was encouraging to think that the Wolverhampton Trades Council were in a flourishing condition. Although no elections had been fought in Wolverhampton last November, it must be borne in mind that they were building up a force from which they would be able to augment their local representation. Their drawback in the past had been their poverty; they could do nothing unless they had money at the back of them. He hoped that the Trades Council would, in the future, not be content with three representatives on the Town Council; instead of three they ought to have 25. It had been a pleasure to audit the accounts.—Mr. H. N. BULLOCK (Carpenters and Joiners) as the fellow auditor of Mr. Hickin, said the excellent state of the Wolverhampton Trades Council spoke well for the future of Trade Unionism, and he was of opinion that the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council was never more potent than it was at the present time.—Mr. H. BAGLEY (Secretary), who was received with loud applause, responded to a vote of thanks. It was a pleasure to do the work knowing the assistance he could always get from the officers and delegates of the Trades Council, and the kind remarks which had been made in connection with his duties.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. Whittaker; vice-president, Mr. C. Harper; treasurer, Mr. J. Icke; secretary, Mr. H. Bagley; auditors, Mr. W. Roberts and Mr. H. N. Fellows. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: A. J. Weaver (R.C.A.), F. Dark (A.S.E.), H. Eberhart (Boot and Shoe), J. Dideridge (A.S.E.), J. Bellis (Gasworkers), Mrs. Adamson (Workers' Union Women's Secretary), C. W. Hill (R.C.A.), A. Flewell (Workers' Union), A. Beck (N.U.R.), J. Medley (Carpenters and Joiners), G. Williams (A.S.E.), A. W. Gould (Typographical Association).

**ELECTROCUTED OR NATURAL CAUSES?**

**Trades Council and the Death of a Tramway Employee.**

The February meeting of the Trades Council considered the circumstances of the death of Motorman Simcox, who recently met his death on a Wolverhampton tramcar, and the following resolution was passed:—The Wolverhampton Trades Council earnestly request the members of the local Town Council to see that some compensation is granted to the widow and three children of Motorman Simcox, who met his death whilst on duty in the employ of the Council. In a letter to the Council the tramway's delegate said:—"There was an element of doubt about the cause of death, and we hope the Corporation will give the widow and children some benefit of that doubt. . . . In my personal opinion—and many others agree—Simcox was electrocuted, and the electrocution took place just as the cable which was carrying the power from one car to the other was disconnected, the motorman simultaneously receiving the electricity left in the car. As for not being able to get a shock with the lights on, I have had several severe shocks, and so have others. . . . I hope your Council will see their way clear to make an effort to bring the palpable miscarriage of justice more forcibly before the attention of the Wolverhampton Town Council. The Corporation offered £25, which was refused. The offer was increased to £50. That was refused. And they spent £57 to fight Mrs. Simcox."

Mr. NASH (Tramway Workers) appealed to the Trades Council to support the resolution, which had been included in the letter. Referring to the decision which was given by the County Court regarding the case in question, he stated that the case was taken into Court against the testimony of two medical men who testified that death was caused by electricity. The County Court judge did not decide the verdict; it was decided by a medical referee, and the referee's verdict went against the decision of two medical men. The resolution was carried unanimously.

**OUR WOMEN'S CORNER.**

(By "Laurel.")

**WORK AND WAR.**

**Employment of Women and Children.**

So much has been written in the daily press on this subject from the capitalist point of view that it would be extremely difficult for me to refrain from giving the woman's side of the question. In the first place, it does not seem that anything like a case has been made out to prove that there is even now a shortage of labour, either in industry or agriculture. No statistics have yet been submitted to show where women or children are urgently required and where men cannot be obtained. Surely the result of Labour Exchange organisation should be able to show this? If not, then their function of even giving a census of unemployment is practically useless.

The plain truth of the matter is, that this agitation is simply the "old capitalist dodge" to entice women and children into industrial life for the "patriotic purpose" of keeping wages low and profit high, "a nice surplus supply of cheap labour."

As a woman, I have no hesitation in saying that if necessary, we, as a sex, could perform a great deal of the work usually done by men, but as a Trade Unionist, only on the condition of equal wages for equal work. If this stipulation was insisted upon it is almost needless to add there would be no agitation on the part of the employers for women to work in the factories to-day. We women must admit that for years we have been gradually encroaching and always undercutting men in the various trades. We must realise that this acts, and reacts again and again on our own sex. "Woman's cause is man's," and we must co-operate with our men to raise and not lower the standard of life.

**Child Labour.**

In the children's case exactly the same position applies, except that it requires the relaxation of our Education Acts to get boys and girls under school age into employment. In this direction some very spirited arguments have taken place on the subject, and generally speaking, those who are opposed to children being drafted into fields and factories are looking farther ahead, and thinking of the effect it will have on the intelligence of the future manhood and womanhood of the country. Lady Selborne, writing to the *Common Cause*, says it would do the children "nothing but good" to do light agricultural work. If she really believes that, why does she not persuade the middle and upper-class parents to withdraw their sons and daughters now at the High Schools and Universities who are over 14 years of age, and draft them into the agricultural arena, if it is so necessary. It might do them "nothing but good" to understand what it means to the workers' child, who is compelled by force of circumstance to commence work at that age to assist in adding to the family income. To my mind there is something mean and contemptible in this attempt to take advantage of a great national disaster to reap increased profits by the exploitation of little children, and which, if successful, will undoubtedly sap the foundations of our British education system.

**Baby Clinics.**

In the *Co-operative News* of February 13 appears an appreciative article on the Wolverhampton working women's victory for the establishment of Baby Clinics. After giving full details of the scheme, as sanctioned by our Town Council, the writer proceeds: "There is only one defect in the scheme, which we hope to see remedied soon. The centres are not at present to include expectant mothers. Now the need for ante-natal work is, if possible, of even greater importance than the after-birth work. Prevention is always better than cure, and the expectant mother, if given advice and treatment, will have a better chance of healthy motherhood. In addition, we are learning now that the death rate of infants before birth is as heavy as that in the first twelve months after birth, and the evidence given as to pregnancy sickness under the Insurance Act fully bears this out. It will not, however, be a difficult matter to include expectant mothers in the Wolverhampton scheme, once the centres are started."

I commend the above remarks to the members of the Health Committee.

**Advisory Committees.**

In connection with this maternity work, it is possible for an Advisory Committee of women to be formed, under the Health Committee, to carry on this work. The advantages of this body is, that as there are no women on the Health Committee, this special maternity work would otherwise be left in the hands of men only, which is obviously undesirable. I understand that the organised working women have recently urged our local health authority to appoint such a committee, and asked for representation thereon. The matter has been before the Health Committee, but they do not consider it necessary to form such a committee at the present time. I do hope that they will at an early date reconsider their decision. They ought to be proud of the fact that they have public-spirited women anxious to give their services for the Common Weal.

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FRANK MYATT'S ALES.

On DRAUGHT  
and  
In BOTTLES