

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

VOL. 1. No. 1. MAY, 1913.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 15,000.

[POST FREE, ONE SHILLING PER ANNUM.]

WOLVERHAMPTON LABOUR PARTY.

A MASS MEETING

will be held on
Sunday Afternoon, April 27,
in the
EMPIRE THEATRE.

Speakers:

Mr. C. DUNCAN, M.P.
(General Secretary, Workers' Union),

Mr. R. C. WALLHEAD
(Prospective Labour Candidate, Coventry).

The Chair will be taken at 3 p.m., prompt, by
Mr. A. G. WALKDEN
(Prospective Labour Candidate, Wolverhampton West).

Doors open 2-30 p.m.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS UP TO 3 p.m.
Collection.

LABOUR ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

To Let for Public Meetings, Whist Drives,
and Social Gatherings.

Apply to Agent: J. WHITTAKER, 35, Queen
Square, Wolverhampton.

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.

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.

G. SMITH, Secretary.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS.

BRANCH MEETINGS held on Saturday Even-
ings 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.

RAILWAY CLERKS' ASSOCIATION. 200 BRANCHES. 20,000 MEMBERS.

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

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

READ "THE DAILY CITIZEN."

FIGHT THE LANDLORDS!

PROPERTY OWNERS MAKE A GRAB AND CATCH A TARTAR.

DON'T PAY!

After the first shock occasioned by the receipt of notices from the modern Shylocks, the Labour Assembly Rooms (head-quarters of the Trades Council) were besieged by tenants red-hot with indignation, of all political colours, asking what action the Trades Council intended to take in the matter. So insistent were these inquiries that the officials of the Trades Council hurriedly called the Council together on Wednesday, April 2nd, when a provisional committee was appointed, with Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P., as chairman, Mr. S. Belcher, secretary, and Councillor J. Walsh, treasurer. Arrangements were made for a mass meeting in the Empire for the following Sunday, April 6th.

Seldom have scenes been witnessed in the music hall such as occurred on that afternoon. The place was packed with an indignant and enthusiastic multitude—indignant at the action of the landlords and enthusiastic in their determination to resist those iniquitous demands, no matter what the result.

Whittaker was in the chair, and the roar of applause when the curtain went up well-nigh shook the hall. Prosser moved the resolution briefly but pointedly, followed by Belcher, the secretary, who had worked like a nigger in order to make the agitation the complete success it was.

Then came the Rev. J. A. Shaw, the people's parson. He is rapidly becoming the idol of the town. "Don't pay," he cried. "We won't," answered the swaying crowd, and those who heard the shout trembled for the safety of any landlord who might be present. And so Mr. Shaw told how, years ago, landlords were hanged, if any deaths in a house were found to be caused by the bad state of the property. He spoke of the anxieties of the housewife, the struggle to make ends meet; he compared the workers' lot with the lot of those who exploit him, and told the tenants to emulate the Irish and pay none at all if the demand was persisted in.

Mr. J. Dideridge, another powerful speaker, came next, and showed the remedy in forcing the Council to put the Town Planning Acts into operation.

Then Lawley, the logician, with his convincing arguments, proved the landlords had not a leg to stand on, and last, but by no means least, Mrs. Sproson, who urged the women to act. She said it was always the woman who had to make twelve pence do the work of thirteen, and point after point she drove home among the sympathetic applause of the audience. Truly a great gathering.

Other meetings have been held, similarly enthusiastic, at which Councillor Walsh has been with us, in addition to the other speakers. The League is going great guns, and the landlords are already in fear and trembling.

It has been said—and it is undoubtedly true—that environment and the conditions under which people live have much to do with deciding the moral well-being of a community—whether that community shall produce sturdy, intellectual citizens, or people, in the main, degenerate, immoral, and vicious. Therefore, the housing question should be one of the first concerns of any well ordered community, because it is one of the chief factors in determining the future well-being of that community, as, under some circumstances, it can be a very real danger. And it must be said that in Wolverhampton at present it can be described as nothing less than a menace to the physical and moral well-being of the town.

A shortage of houses has recently been created, not by the tenants, be it noted, but by those whose privilege it has been to supply houses; and overcrowding in jerry-built, insanitary dwellings, many of which have been built on dung-hills, is the order of the day. Yet for this class of property, the owners, by concerted action, are attempting to extort more rent, and the tenants, equally determined, are strenuously resisting the imposition.

The action of the landlords and property owners is on a par with the rack-renters of Ireland and in some districts of Scotland, where it has had the effect of depleting the population by one-half. This very same action is forcing the people from the country villages into the towns and cities, and out of the towns and cities in turn to seek refuge, and shelter, and livelihood in lands across the sea. The best blood of the nation is being driven forth and "The Land of Their Fathers" is no longer the land of their sons.

I have tried to find out on what grounds the claim for increased rent is based, and, so far as possible, I will enumerate them all:—

(1) *Increased cost in building material and labour.*

In answer to this we point out that rents are being raised on buildings which have been up for 10, 20, and even 30 years.

(2) *Increased rates.*

This we absolutely deny, as, in 1906 the rates were 10s. 1d. in the £, whereas to-day they are only 8s. 11d.

(3) *Increased taxation, instanced as Insurance Act, Employers' Liability Act, and Housing and Town Planning Act.*

In the first place, we would point out that the ordinary speculative property owner employs nobody except an agent, in some instances, and the bailiff, and for neither of these does he pay either employers' liability or insurance. Secondly, we point out that any property owner can insure himself against any liability under the Housing Act to the extent of £500 for 1s. a year, and any attempt to extort 3d., 6d., or 1s. a week to pay for such a paltry sum can be described as nothing short of robbery.

(4) *The increased cost of Education.*

This we admit to be true, but it could be pointed out that the bulk of the increased expenditure is on account of secondary education, the benefits of which are largely absorbed by the property-owning and landlord class, and for which they should be prepared to pay, but instead they make an audacious attempt to pass it on to the already overburdened worker.

(5) *That there was a period of depression some years ago during which time they suffered loss.*

What we should like to know in respect of this is, how many of these property-owners went bankrupt? And, on the other hand, how many tenants were sold up? and who is to compensate the latter?

(6) *That there is a greater demand for accommodation, or, in other words, a shortage in houses, and they intend to take full advantage of the "corner" which they have created.*

We contend that the landlords and property owners are better off to-day than they have ever been, seeing that they are paying less in rates than they were, they

S. M. CO. SHIRTS

are
TOP VALUE

and made by.

TRADE UNION LABOUR.

DEEPEG SHIRT, Cotton	2/6
SERPEG SHIRT, "	2/11
LOOMPEG, Flannel	3/11
WOOLPEG, "	5/11

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 necessities?

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 your 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.

have fewer houses empty, and less bad debts.

On the other hand, we say that the worker is far worse off, from the fact that the cost of living has increased at least 3s. in the £, while in the same period his wages have not risen to anything like that amount, and he does have to pay insurance without a doubt.

The Tenants' Defence League is established to "Resist the unjust raising of rents, to organise protection for such tenants as may be victimised through resisting, to give legal advice as between tenant and landlord, and to press forward the Housing and Town Planning Acts through the Town Council."

The League will call the attention of the health inspector to any insanitary dwellings, and wherever this increased rent is enforced it will demand a re-assessment by the rating authority on that house.

If you have not joined the League, we call upon you to do so at once. If you have started to pay, discontinue it. Stand together; united we shall succeed, divided we shall fail, and if you contribute to that failure, either through fear or apathy, you deserve all you will get, with compound interest.

DON'T PAY!

G.L.

THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Why Labour Members are Needed on our Governing Bodies.

It is often asserted by those superior persons who happen to be antagonistic to the Labour movement that the more Labour or Socialist representatives there are on governing bodies the greater must be the expenditure of those bodies, and, as a consequence, the higher the burden of rates and taxes on the people who send them there. And on this point these opponents will seldom, if ever, permit any argument.

This being so, it is interesting to note the composition of our chief local bodies, the Town Council (of which an extended analysis will be found in another column) and the Board of Guardians. Out of 48 members of the Town Council only three are representatives of Labour; and the movement is in a similar position with regard to the Guardians. How, then, is it, that we are at the present time in the position of having to record an increase in the rates of 2d. in the £? Surely these three Labour men have not terrorised 45 others to do their behests, and to fall in with their wicked designs? Like so many other arguments advanced by these people this falls to the ground immediately upon a little scrutiny.

Yet it is a fact that Labour the world over stands for the nationalisation of all national monopolies, railways, canals, mines, and other public services, and, more locally, they advocate that our tramways, lighting (gas and electricity), water, markets, hospitals, and all things that affect the public generally should be controlled by the public for the public through their democratic governing bodies.

It is admitted that with these things and other requirements necessary to town improvement and the health of the people expenses must increase somewhat, but when we consider that the majority of those things which the Council control, and which can be considered in any way Socialistic in tendency, such as our municipal tramway system, our electric lighting, and power system, and our markets and water undertakings, are the town's best paying concerns, then it must be conceded that the argument is rather on the side of Labour after all.

On the other hand, it is the writer's firm opinion that with Individualism rampant on our public bodies the natural consequence is that when such questions come up for consideration the point of view taken by the individualist must necessarily be, not "How will this affect my constituents?" but "How, if this proposal goes through, will this affect me?" Again, recent events prove this contention. Here we are confronted with a real and pressing housing problem. The Labour man says: "Let us put into operation the Housing of the Working Classes Act." Does the Individualist agree? If, as is often the case, he is a landlord, he does not, because then he would be in the position of competing with himself, and would be unable to levy his increased rent charges, which he does at the present time, simply because the workers must have a house to live in. Where Labour says: "Let us build decent houses for the worker to live in," the Individualist landlord says: "No, if you do you will injure my profits." And so on through all departments.

Very often we are told that no profits should go to the rates, i.e., for the good of all, but should be returned to the fortunate consumer in the shape of lower charges. The Labour Party says that the first charge on an industry is its workpeople, and so they say that profits should first and foremost go to improve the conditions of the employees, then to the relief of rates, whereby everyone is benefited, and, lastly, to reduce charges wherever possible, after the above-mentioned provision is made.

Such are some of the aims of Labour on our Town Council. Much more could be said, and will be dealt with in future issues, but I think I have demonstrated sufficiently in one brief article, enough to make the worker consider whether he has acted wisely in the past in sending along to the governing body his employer, his employer's agent, or his employer's relatives and friends, instead of those men who know his conditions and his needs, and have no self-interest to consider.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

When one considers the enormous powers possessed by this body—powers which, if taken advantage of and rightly used—may be powers for great good, and yet, if allowed to be used in some directions may be to the disadvantage of the people as a whole, it is remarkable how little interest is taken in the Guardians and their doings. Further, when one remembers the great spending power they possess it is more remarkable still that the people who pay it all—directly or indirectly, the workers—have not seen to it that they had a greater proportion of their own representatives on this important Board to say in which way this money should be spent. At present there are only three Labour Guardians. This position is largely due to the inactivity of the Labour Party themselves in this connection, but with the new spirit that is awakening in the movement locally, it may be expected that more attention will be paid to this branch of public work, and that they will send along others to strengthen the hands of the valiant three who have fought so long for Labour on the Board of Guardians.

The election of Poor Law Guardians is an event of great importance, in that two million persons in any one year, largely as a result of bad laws, are driven to accept Poor Law relief. And one cannot designate this vast number as social wrecks or ne'er-do-wells, because about one-third are children; therefore they, poor mites, stand with little or no chance in life. About another third are those broken through sickness. A great number are widows, or friendless aged, prematurely infirm or feeble-minded. Not one-tenth are able-bodied men in good health. As this awful number represents those at present receiving Poor Law relief, think how vast must be that army of people on the verge of destitution—in casual employment or unemployed—bereft of the proper and adequate means to obtain the bare necessities of life; of such unfortunates, with their dependents of little children needing the food necessary to enable them to benefit from school teaching; of infants actually perishing through lack of proper sustenance and care; of old people preferring to starve in a garret or cellar rather than enter "The House."

Now this dreadful mass of misery and wretchedness is largely, very largely, the result of our present vicious social system. This system is the vulture which is eating out the heart of Humanity, and Hercules, in the form of the Labour Party, is out to destroy it.

It is just as possible to abolish destitution as it has been to abolish the plague, negro chattel slavery, and the exploitation of little children in coal mines and cotton factories; but there is this difference: whilst there was unity of purpose amongst all classes to abolish the first-named scourge, the plague, it was a long and weary struggle to abolish the other evils, because it was not to the interests of the Liberal and Tory mill and mine owners to do so. To them the flesh and blood of the workers was cheap. Neither is it to their selfish interests in our time to put an end to destitution, hence the advent of the Labour Party.

During the past 18 years the aggregate increase in the wages of the whole of the working classes has been only about £15,000,000, while the increase in the wealth of the Capitalist classes represents about £337,000,000 during the same period. The census of production states that there are about seven million workers in this country who, when employed, receive only an average of 24s. per week in wages; that during the last 18 years the rise in the price of consumable commodities (food stuffs) has been 4s. 9½d. in the pound, thus the value in the year 1895 of 24s. only represents about 19s. to-day. Three out of seven persons of the working classes who reach the age of 65 have to receive relief from the rates, one in five dies a pauper, and it is estimated 939 people out of every thousand die without leaving any property or anything of value at all.

In future we shall endeavour to foster a greater interest in the work of the Board of Guardians, and if we are successful in even only a small degree then we think we shall have justified the launching of *The Worker*.

TRADE UNION AND LABOUR MISSION WEEK

SERIES OF SPECIAL OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

Mr. Walkden, our Prospective Labour Candidate, will attend as many of these as possible.

MONDAY, APRIL 23rd.

Time.	Place.	Speaker.	Chairman.
1-30 p.m.	Near Bayliss, Jones and A. Boden	A. Boden	Coun. W. Sharrocks
	Bayliss' Works, Cable-st.	(Rlwy. Clerks' Assoc.)	(Boilermakers' Union)
1-30 p.m.	Near Stafford-rd. Works.	Geo. Ryder (A.S.E.)	G. Lawley
			(Education Committee)
1-30 p.m.	Near Rees Motor Works, A. E. Ellery	A. E. Ellery	Chas. Harper
	Wednesfield-road.	(Workers' Union)	(Boot & Shoe Operative Union)
1-30 p.m.	Walsall-st. (near Commer-	J. Kesterton	A. W. Beck
	cial Schools).	(B'ham T.C.)	(Nat. Union of Railwaymen)
7-30 p.m.	Snow Hill	Geo. Ryder (A.S.E.)	J. Dideridge (A.S.E.)
		J. Chew	
		(Carpenters & Joiners)	
		W. J. Wentworth	
		(Woodcutters' Union)	
7-30 p.m.	Bilston, Oatmeal-square.	A. E. Ellery	E. Faulkner (President, I.L.P.)
		(Workers' Union)	
		J. Compton	
		(Coachmakers' Union)	
7-30 p.m.	Whitmore Reans, Leices-	J. Kesterton	Coun. C. Hickin
	ter-square.	(B'ham T.C.)	(Tin Plate Workers' Union)
		Miss Julia Varley	
		(Workers' Union)	

TUESDAY, APRIL 29th.

1-30 p.m.	Near Sunbeam Works.	Motor A. Boden (R.C.A.)	Councillor T. Frost
			(Carpenters & Joiners)
1-30 p.m.	Near Culwell Works,	Coun. J. Beard	H. Moreton
	Frederick-st., Heath Town	(Workers' Union)	(Sec., Boot & Shoe Union)
1-30 p.m.	Bilston, near Sankey's	W. Banfield	G. Tarratt
	Works, High Town.	(Bakers' Union)	(Sec., I.L.P. District Fed.)
5-30 p.m.	Corporation Depot, School-	Coun. J. Gregory	Geo. Lawley
	street.	(Gasworkers' Union)	(Education Committee)
7-30 p.m.	Monmore Green, near	A. Boden (R.C.A.)	Chas. Smith
	"The Woodman."	J. Compton	(Tin Plate Workers' Union)
		(Coachmakers' Union)	
7-30 p.m.	Open Space, Cobden-lane,	A. E. Ellery	Coun. W. Sharrocks
	Blakenhall.	(Workers' Union)	(Boilermakers' Union)
		H. M. Fellowes	
		(Carpenters & Joiners)	
7-30 p.m.	Bilston-rd., near "Horse	J. H. Dale (N.U.R.)	Coun. C. Hickin
	and Jockey."	Coun. E. G. Evans	(Tinplate Workers)
		(Gasworkers' Union)	
		Fred Hughes	
		(Nat. Union of Clerks)	
		W. Pardoe (N.U.R.)	

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th.

1-0 p.m.	Near Clyno Works, Pel-	W. Banfield	Coun. T. Frost
	ham-street.	(Bakers' Union)	(Carpenters & Joiners)
1-30 p.m.	Sunbeam Cycle Works,	J. Kesterton	Rev. J. A. Shaw.
	near Paul-street.	(Birmingham T.C.)	
1-30 p.m.	Powlett-st., near	Baker's A. Boden (R.C.A.)	T. Jones, J.P.
	and Craddock's.		(Treas., Midland Trades Fed.)
7-30 p.m.	Snow Hill.	A. Boden (R.C.A.)	A. W. Beck (N.U.R.)
		J. Kesterton	
		(Birmingham T.C.)	
7-30 p.m.	Heath Town, near Star	T. Jones, J.P.	J. Ash (Locksmiths' Union).
	Hotel, Railway-street.	(Midland Trades Fed.)	
		E. Edwards (N.U.R.)	
7-30 p.m.	Five Ways, Stafford-road.	Coun. W. Sharrocks	J. H. Dale (N.U.R.)
		(Boilermakers' Union)	
		Rev. J. A. Shaw	
		W. Pardoe (N.U.R.)	

THURSDAY, MAY 1st.

1-30 p.m.	Near Star Motor Works,	A. Boden (R.C.A.)	H. Moreton
	Frederick-street.		(Boot & Shoe Union)
1-30 p.m.	Bushbury, near Electric	J. E. Ellery	Chas. Harper
	Construction Co.'s Works.	(Workers' Union)	(Boot & Shoe Union)
1-30 p.m.	Near Sunbeam Motor	Geo. Ryder (A.S.E.)	Coun. T. Frost
	Works, Upper Villiers-st.		(Carpenters & Joiners)
1-30 p.m.	Near Orme Evans', Alex-	Miss Julia Varley	Rev. J. A. Shaw.
	ander-street.	(Workers' Union)	
5-0 p.m.	Fox-lane.	J. E. Ellery	E. Faulkner (President, I.L.P.)
		(Workers' Union)	
7-0 p.m.	Near Steam Laundry,	Miss Julia Varley	Mrs. E. Sproson.
	Sweetman-st., Whitmore	J. E. Ellery	
	Reans.	(Workers' Union)	
7-30 p.m.	Market Place, Willenhall.	Geo. Lawley,	Coun. Evans (Workers' Union)
		(Education Com.)	
		A. Boden (R.C.A.)	
		J. H. Dale (N.U.R.)	
7-30 p.m.	John-street, Ettingshall.	Geo. Ryder (A.S.E.)	G. Tarratt
		W. W. Saunders	(Sec., I.L.P. District Fed.)
		(Carpenters & Joiners)	

FRIDAY, MAY 2nd.

1-30 p.m.	Near Axie Box Works,	J. E. Ellery	E. Faulkner (President, I.L.P.)
	Wednesfield.	(Workers' Union)	
1-30 p.m.	Cable-street (near Bayliss,	Coun. J. Gregory	F. Hughes (N.U.C.)
	Jones and Bayliss').	(Gasworkers' Union)	
1-30 p.m.	Near Chillington Works,	A. Boden (R.C.A.)	Rev. J. A. Shaw.
	Willenhall-road.		
7-30 p.m.	Snow Hill.	F. Hughes (N.U.C.)	Coun. C. Hickin
		E. Edwards (N.U.R.)	(Tinplate Workers)
7-30 p.m.	Round House, Whitmore	J. E. Ellery	F. Tustin
	Reans.	(Workers' Union)	(Typographical Assoc.)
		J. Medley	
		(Carpenters & Joiners)	
		A. W. Beck (N.U.R.)	
7-30 p.m.	Wednesfield, near Royal	Coun. J. Gregory	A. J. Weaver (R.C.A.)
	Oak.	(Gasworkers' Union)	
		A. Boden (R.C.A.)	
		J. Ash	
		(Locksmiths' Union)	

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd.

7-30 p.m.	Market Place.	A. G. Walkden.	Coun. W. Sharrocks.
		A. Boden.	
		J. E. Ellery.	
		A. J. Weaver.	
		J. Dideridge.	

SUNDAY, MAY 4th.

MASS MEETING.

3-0 p.m.	Market Place.	Rev. J. A. Shaw.	Jas. Whittaker, J.P.
		A. G. Walkden.	
		Coun. Simpson	
		(Birmingham)	
		A. Boden.	
		J. E. Ellery.	
		A. J. Weaver.	
		Coun. W. Sharrocks.	
		Coun. T. Frost.	
		Coun. C. Hickin.	
		T. Jones, J.P.	
		H. Moreton.	
		J. Icke, and other	
		Labour Leaders.	

TRADE UNION MISSION WEEKS.

Their Value to Labour Movement.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH Mr. G. H. ROBERTS, M.P.

It would be difficult to find either inside or outside of the House of Commons a man with a clearer appreciation of the industrial and political situation as it affects Labour than the Chief Whip of the Parliamentary Labour Party, the junior Member for Norwich, and few also upon whose time greater demands are made.

And yet my request for an interview in the interests of the readers of the *Wolverhampton Worker* was granted with a cheerful readiness that was indeed encouraging to one condemned at times to weary waiting in the Outer Lobby. Mr. Roberts speaks on the question not only as a Parliamentarian, but also as a Trade Union official, for he was for a considerable period an organiser for the Typographical Association, and an active Trade Union worker for many years.

"The institution of a Trade Union Week," he said, "is a comparatively recent propagandist innovation, but already it has become an established feature of Labour activity in many places. Trade Unions and Labour political bodies are thus brought into closer co-operation and more perfect understanding."

"What are the methods usually adopted?" I asked. "I gather you have had a wide experience."

"The usual practice is to invite the Executive Committees of the organisations interested to supply a speaker each. This is generally readily assented to, and the arrangement carries with it the payment of travelling and out-of-pocket expenses of the representatives delegated for the purpose. Thus each of the bodies engaging in the special endeavour shares the Labour and cost involved. By this means a local movement may secure the services of a range of confident speakers, which might otherwise be beyond its reach, whilst the separate Unions may be adequately compensated by additions to membership."

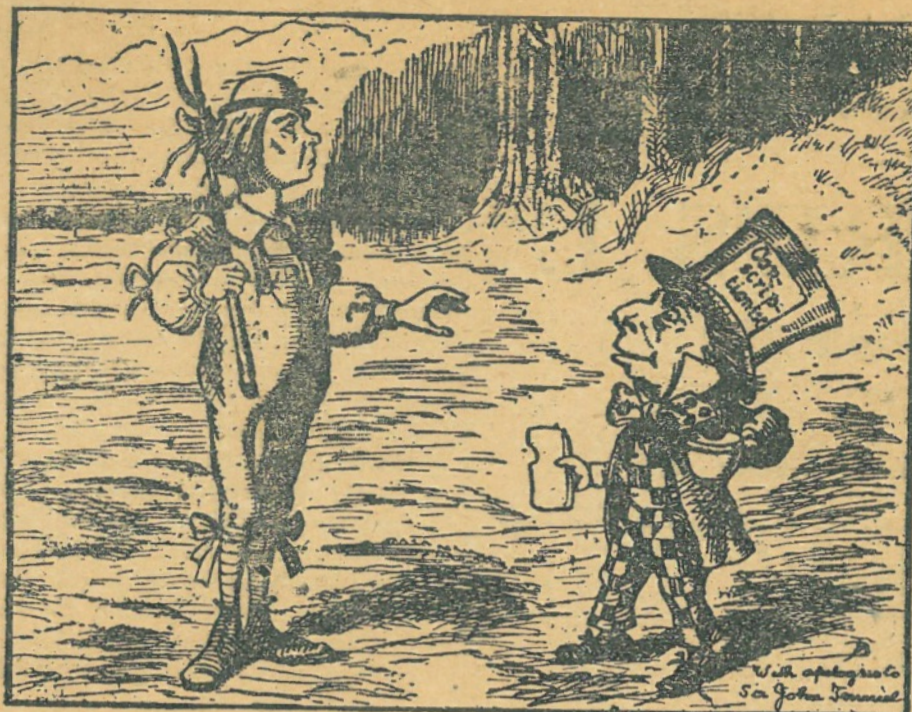
"And I gather that these additions, both to the Unions and to the political movements, have been quite considerable in a number of cases?"

"Yes, that is so. From my own constituency I have heard most encouraging reports. Increases in membership amounting to several hundreds. Its exact effect, remember, too, is difficult to judge; it does not always show immediately, but there can be no doubt as to the benefits. Experience proves that efforts of this character stimulate interest, aid organisation, and educate electorates to the necessity of both industrial and political methods. The identity of interests and the interdependence of the working classes irrespective of industry can be made so clear. Moreover these co-operative endeavours attract the workers into friendly contact, and thus the spirit of acting together is encouraged, which is a great advantage in times of industrial strife, and in securing a return of Labour representatives to local governing bodies and to Parliament."

"You say, Mr. Roberts, that a kind of general invitation to send speakers is extended to the various Unions? There is still, of course, need for discretion in the final selection. It would not do for example for a representative of one Union to urge direct action and the alleged folly of Parliamentary methods, and then be followed the next night by a Labour M.P.?"

"Exactly. The need for judicious selection of speakers cannot be too strongly emphasised. I know of one case where the Trades Council were dangerously near making such an arrangement as that you speak of. The local movement must have a clear vision of the policy they desire to pursue, and speakers must be selected with a view to advance that policy. Otherwise, they are bound to create an atmosphere of confusion in the minds of those to whom they appeal. Conflict of policy on the part of advocates must be avoided."

"I agreed, and Mr. Roberts proceeded: "Yes, I think the Trade Union Week will become an institution, and because it makes for Labour solidarity, for mutual endeavour, and working-class progress, I commend it strongly to all local Trades Councils and Labour Parties." G.L.



With acknowledgments to "Alice in Wonderland."
 THE MAD HATTER.—Yes; every man—tinkers, tailors, ploughboys—every man will have to be a soldier—every man!
 THE YOUNG MAN WHO WANTED TO KNOW.—Every man, eh! Then, where do you come in?
 THE MAD HATTER.—I! Oh! I shall sell helmets to the Army. That's where I come in!

CONSCRIPTION.

MR. T. RICHARDSON, M.P., AND LORD ROBERTS.

THE TRUE IMPERIALISM.

A meeting to protest against Compulsory Military Service was held in the Agricultural Hall on Wednesday, April 10. Mr. Geo. Snape presided. Mr. A. G. Walkden was unavoidably prevented from attending. The Secretary stated that it was through the good offices of Mr. Walkden their friend Mr. Tom Richardson, M.P., was with them that evening.

The Rev. J. Davison Brown moved a resolution condemning the proposal for Compulsory Military Service.

The Rev. J. A. Shaw, who seconded, said he was utterly opposed to Conscription in any shape or form, and to protect his own liberty and the freedom of those he held dearer than life itself, he was prepared to go further than speak on a public platform. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried. The Rev. J. J. Darmody moved a resolution deploring the serious menace of increasing armaments. Alderman Price Lewis seconded.

Mr. Richardson, on rising to support the resolution, said he was pleased, as a Trade Unionist, Socialist, and Labour M.P., to have the opportunity of speaking to the resolutions.

I have had the opportunity, he said, of reading a report of Lord Roberts's recent speech in your local papers, and was interested and amused to read in particular his peroration. Lord Roberts appeals to the Radicals, Liberals, and Unionists, and finally to the people of Wolverhampton, through their hearts, minds, and their God, to save their country. (Laughter.) I would ask you to note—what I suggest is a very significant fact—that he makes no reference to the organised forces of the Labour and Socialist movements, and for this very obvious reason, that

Lord Roberts and Company know that the leaders of the Labour and Socialist movement and their rank and file—not only in Great Britain, but in Germany, France, and many other civilised countries—are up against the scaremongers, militarists, and Big Navy party of the country.

Now I understand, Mr. Chairman, that this is a representative platform, mainly consisting of all political and religious parties, and yet united on these great questions. I want to avoid making a party speech, but I must be allowed to say to politicians, ministers, and laymen alike, that in view of the present policy of the present Government, especially on this question of piling up large and wasteful naval expenditure, that if you are in earnest you must do something more than pass pious resolutions. You must carry your protest into the ballot box, for it is at the ballot we must strike if we would be effective. The Party now in power

claim to be the apostles of "Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform," and whilst our Naval Estimates were in 1895 about 19½ million pounds, in 1913 they are nearly 50 millions, and I say decidedly that unless there is a more aggressive and militant protest made, even the high-water mark of Naval expenditure of to-day will in a very few years go up many more million pounds per year. (Shame.)

There is one ray of hope and that is the growing recognition on the part of the organised workers and Socialists of all civilised countries that as workers they have no quarrel one with another.

So far as the Labour and Socialist movement at home and abroad is concerned, we will continue to educate, organise, and, not only in word but in deed, foster and develop friendly and not hostile feeling between the nations of the earth.

Once the democracies of all lands have made up their minds that war shall be no more, that peace and good will shall be our watchword, I say with confidence that they have the power—a power, Mr. Chairman, greater than that of statesmen, politicians, and even financiers.

In conclusion, I would ask you, one and all, to answer this question: What would be the position of the oppressed and disinherited if, as a people and a nation, we had spent even a part of the time, energy, and money that we have spent in armies and navies in constructive reform? We cannot spend wantonly as we have been doing in inflated armies and navies, and at the same time secure for the people healthy homes, a living wage, and the opportunity of a full, free, and abundant life.

I sincerely hope that this meeting will help us to a more resolute and determined opposition to the National Service League and kindred institutions, and what is of equal importance, a resolute effort on our part to win for the whole of our people not only social justice but economic freedom. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

After which the Chairman said they were indebted and obliged to Mr. Richardson for his speech.

The resolution was carried.

The perfumed and pampered never make the mistake of voting for their drudges. Why, then, blunder by voting for those whose chief sport is to kill time and money—and, incidentally, the workers.

Why should there be one empty belly in all the world when the work of ten men can feed a hundred?—JACK LONDON.

JOTTINGS.

The Liberal and Tory Parties have recently declared that railway workers are not worth 21s. per week by rejecting the Labour Party's amendment to the Railways Bill to ensure that minimum for all railway workers.

Mr. A. Bird, M.P., speaking at a dinner recently, said, "He always placed his services at a high figure and had tried to obtain a reward commensurate with that high figure."

NOW we know why he gives that £400 per annum away. 'Nuff said.

A local man for a local constituency. Now then, all together for Max Muspratt.

There appears to be a fair amount of opinion fostered by a capitalistic press that the Labour Party is out for "Grabbing other people's money" as a man once informed the writer.

This would be impossible. The money has already been grabbed from the workers (who alone are the producers of wealth) and the object of the Labour Party is to effect a more just distribution of the national wealth.

It has been computed by an eminent statistician that if every person performed his or her allotted portion of the world's work the working day would be 3½ hours.

The Labour Party stands for the Right to Work of every unemployed British working man.

Have you ever realised that in proportion to the unemployed—whether a workman, unfortunately unable to obtain work, or an idler at the other end of the social scale—every working man has to work so much harder in order to maintain himself and the idlers who can only exist as the result of his energy?

"He who pays the piper calls the tune." Or, in other words, those who find the party funds control the voting machinery in Parliament.

So let's have your votes for the nominees of Tory thousand-pound diners, or Liberal millionaires and capitalists.

I wonder how many of my readers have tried the experiment of buying a Tory and a Liberal newspaper, and comparing the respective opinions and articles published upon any political question, such as the Marconi Inquiry, for instance. I have done so, and the conviction is forced upon me that the respective editors must have the following lines from Jonson as their motto:—

"I am a printer, a printer of news. . . . I'll give anything for good copy now, be it true or false, so it be news."

Just a word to ardent politicians. Have you ever realised that your everyday life is bound up with Parliamentary action in all ways—ho sing, living, medical attendance, safety, etc.? And have you realised how imperative it is you should make yourself acquainted fully with all matters appertaining thereto? There are three parties in existence in Great Britain, but only one—the Labour Party—is pledged to further the interests of working men.

People who are only capable of telling funny stories are not required in Parliament, as there are sufficient there already who are capable of "Telling the tale," especially at election times.

Who despatched the military throughout England at the time of the railway strike and also ordered them to act as strike-breakers in Ireland?

The friends (at election times) of the British working man—the Liberal Party.

Who patted them on the back for doing it?

The pals (at election times) of the British working man—the Tory Party.

When are you working men going to understand that in politics both Tory and Liberal Parties try to make a speciality of fooling you?

C. VERE.

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 DANGERS.**

MILITARY TOURNAMENTS.

(HORSE LEAPING,
FIREWORKS,
ILLUMINATIONS,
Etc., Etc., Etc.
VARIETY AND
ACROBATIC
ENTERTAINMENTS
By Leading Stage Perform-
ers new to Wolverhampton
PRICES AS USUAL

**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.

MAY, 1913.

EDITORIAL.

The forces of Organised Labour in Wolverhampton have for many years felt the need of a paper of their own to give adequate and authoritative expression to their aims, principles, and activities. This need having recently become very acute a start has been made, in spite of many difficulties, and *The Wolverhampton Worker* is presented to the public as the local organ of the conscious forces that are striving to uplift and improve the lot of the worker and to reform the conditions of trade and industry. While setting ourselves to this task we have been greatly encouraged by the active interest displayed towards our venture, not only by the general body of helpers in the Labour movement, but by numerous friends whom we hardly imagined would be so eager to assist. It is abundantly evident that a great awakening of the true democratic spirit is taking place in Wolverhampton to-day and that the times are favourable for the successful advent of our paper. The people are in revolt against the attempted extortion of higher rents and the steady increase in the price of milk, coal, and other necessities of life, and they are beginning to realise that these increases (which have, within the last few years, brought the purchasing power of a sovereign down to about sixteen shillings) are largely due to the stealthy and

silent operations of associations of landlords and capitalists. Prompt and thorough-going action on the part of the Municipal Authorities is necessary to check the nefarious designs of these semi-secret organisations whose sole aim is to fleece the public. Instinctively the people have looked to the Town Council to deal drastically with the present intolerable position, but the response so far has been very disappointing, and sharp inquiries are being made regarding the extent to which each councillor is personally interested in the success of the price-raising gamble. In short the workers now want to know who stands for property and who is prepared to fight for humanity. A searchlight is being thrown upon our civic and corporate life, and the *Worker* may be relied upon to speak out fearlessly upon all that is done amiss, or wrongly left undone, by those who claim to be representatives of the people.

Just as we are prepared to stand up for a bold and truly progressive civic policy, so are we also determined to maintain a similar attitude towards national politics. We are not satisfied with Mr. Lloyd George's dictum that monopolists who "pass on" every impost or burden "are entitled to pass it on." They should be the last people in the world to shirk their share of the cost of public services. The policeman and the soldier are far more valuable to them than to the worker. This doctrine of "passing it on" is cutting into the homes and lives of the working middle class and professional people almost as cruelly as it does into those of mechanics and manual labourers, and they are fast accepting our point of view. Our sympathy is extended to all who earn their living, whether by hand or brain, and we claim that legislation should be framed to assist them rather than to strengthen still further the position of those who own and control the means of life. Indeed, we are convinced that, just as the public ownership of our trams, electricity, gas, and water supplies is beneficial to the town, so would the State acquisition of the land, mines, railways, and other monopolies be of enormous advantage to the nation. But we recognise that such far-reaching changes and the enactment of other necessary reforms can only be obtained by vigorous organised effort on the part of the workers, and we rejoice to know that all the Trade Unions are now making a big move forward in that direction. They are fast recovering from the paralysing effect of the Osborne Judgment, and will undoubtedly claim and secure their fair share of representation in the next Parliamentary Election.

THE MAN FOR THE WEST.

We have very great pleasure in reproducing a photograph of Mr. A. G. Walkden, the prospective Labour candidate for West Wolverhampton, together with a message from him to the workers and to *The Worker*.
It is little more than a year since Mr. Walkden came in our midst, but he is already well known and has made a host of friends in the town, especially amongst the Trade Unionists. On all his visits to the local branches he has been accorded a very gratifying reception. Prior to Mr. Walkden's acceptance of the Trades Council's invitation to become their prospective candidate, the Labour forces in Wolverhampton were in a somewhat disheartened and disorganised state, but all that has been changed completely and the Labour Representation Committee declare that they now stand in an infinitely better position than ever before. The appointment of Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P., as full-time registration agent, and the engagement of the Labour Assembly Rooms in Queen-square, have proved to be of great advantage to the whole organisation, and its workers are looking forward with confidence to the next Parliamentary Election.
Mr. Walkden has one of the best possible claims to the support of all who

sympathise with the aims of Labour in that he has virtually brought into being what is now one of the most vigorous and progressive Trade Unions in the country. We refer to the Railway Clerks' Association, of which he was one of the foremost founders in 1897. For several years this organisation had a hard struggle for existence, and in the spring of 1906 it was on the point of going under, but Mr. Walkden, who had by that time been promoted to a goods agency on the Great Northern Railway, could not bear to see the Union go down, and forthwith threw up his railway work to take over the secretaryship—or, as he puts it, "to go to the pump."

He found the Central Office in a state of general bankruptcy, and the real membership considerably less than it had appeared on paper—4,000. However, nothing daunted, he devoted himself morning, noon, and night, to the difficult task of rebuilding, and the response accorded by the railway clerks throughout the country was so fine that within six months the membership was raised to over 6,000 strong. Since then the Association has gone on by leaps and bounds, and now has 200 branches and over 20,000 members.

It would be impossible in this short article, to enumerate the many improvements secured from the railway companies by the R.C.A., but they aggregate to hundreds of thousands of pounds in value, and have in many instances meant an ultimate increase in the rate of pay from 32s. 6d. to 46s. per week. No wonder our champion's name is a household word amongst railway clerks.

Mr. Walkden's Trade Union duties have taken him to all part of the Kingdom, as the R.C.A. branches extend from Inverness to Plymouth and from Yarmouth to Limerick. He has also traversed several Continental countries to gather facts and figures respecting the management of State railways. All this work, and his close study of Blue Books and other literature on the subject, has made Mr. Walkden a thorough expert in railway affairs—especially upon Railway Nationalisation, of which he is an enthusiastic exponent. In this connection he has twice been deputed by the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee to present the case for Nationalisation to the Prime Minister, who has thereby been moved somewhat from his original opposition to the idea, and now acknowledges (to the dismay of the railway magnates), that he is not unfavourable to the principle and has an open mind as to the practicability of its application in England at the present time. Mr. Walkden has received many congratulations for having moved such a Conservative Liberal as Mr. Asquith even to that extent.

Our prospective Member has attended the Trades Union Congress since 1904, and the annual conferences of the Labour Party since 1910, after having, by tactful persistence and constant educational work, overcome the previous reticence on the part of the R.C.A. members to identify themselves with political action. Their final ballot gave a three fourths majority in favour of affiliation to the Labour Party. In attending these great national gatherings and in carrying out his duties as Parliamentary Secretary to the R.C.A., Mr. Walkden has become well known throughout the Labour movement, and has also acquired an extensive knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, including committee work, and of the doings of all the political parties.

Although Mr. Walkden clearly recognises the need for absolutely independent representation of Labour in Parliament and has great faith in the possibilities of State action, he is none the less conscious of the imperative necessity for industrial organisation, education, and increased activity in the other fields of Trade Union work. Indeed, it was at his suggestion that *The Worker* was started, and the Trades Council decided to institute the special series of propaganda meetings during the coming week on behalf of Trade Unionism, as outlined in another column of this issue.

The workers of Wolverhampton could have no better candidate to represent them in the councils of the nation.

LOCAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

"By 'THE CHIEL'"

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

—BURNS.

A New Organisation.

My first word must be one of welcome to the new organisation which has sprung into a vigorous and active existence in the town—the Tenants' Defence League. It is hardly necessary for me to reiterate the causes responsible for it. Sufficient is it that it comes to fight an evil—and from the hard knocks that it has already dealt its enemies, I am inclined to believe that it will succeed in its object, and wipe out of existence that evil, and remove all doubt as to its recurrence in the future. And it comes at an opportune time. This past month has revealed more forcibly than ever before the iniquities of landlord law. We have seen how it is possible for the landlord to impose whatever burden he chooses on the tenant, and, at the same time the impossibility of the tenant resisting in what is termed a "legal" manner. It has been demonstrated many times that "law" and justice are two different things, and this action of the landlords, "legal" though it is, is an instance. Throwing "legality" to the winds, the Tenants' Defence League has urged the tenant: "Don't Pay!" And I echo the sentiment, for this is one of the occasions when Right can beat Might if only the tenants will join the League and stand firm in their resistance to these local Shylocks.

The Remedy.

But while this high rent resistance crusade may—and I believe it will—be effective in its immediate object, it cannot be said to be the real and lasting remedy. And here let me say that it is the tenant himself who is responsible for the state of affairs which has arisen. Here we have a Town Council composed of over forty members with powers granted by Parliament which would prevent any such position arising, and yet we only find three members of that Council wholeheartedly in favour of exercising those powers for the benefit of the community. Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, or the Town Planning Act, any shortage of housing accommodation could be met by the Town Council providing suitable houses at reasonable rents for the workers. This is a remedy which the Labour Party stands for, and it does not rebound to the credit of the town that it possesses only three Labour Councillors. But I think the lesson has been learned, and that next November will see a different state of things. Therein lies the remedy. Send along those men who will undertake this work. Let them build 500 decent houses in the town, and the increased rents demanded for the jerry-built property which abounds in the town will go down with a slump. Meanwhile, I repeat: "Don't pay; join the League."

Passing It On.

I am inclined to agree with Councillor Walsh and the Rev. J. A. Shaw that this action of the landlords will ultimately result in good coming out of evil. For years the Labour and Socialist Parties have been telling the people that, rather than there being three political parties in the State, there are only two: the possessing class and the dispossessed—the workers. They have preached political action for Labour as well as industrial action. They have pointed out that Liberalism and Toryism only serve to divide the workers at the polls and so prevent them from getting that which should be theirs, and would very soon be if a united working-class party were sent up to the national assembly. The Labour and Socialist Parties have shown how Liberals and Tories have simply divided the workers, how they have made laws, which they have taken care will not hurt themselves. When a law is made ostensibly to benefit the worker, these people take very good care to pass the cost of it on to the people, no matter how they pretend to tax themselves, they pass it on, indeed, they get it times over from the worker. To do this they cease to call

themselves Liberals and Conservatives. They form themselves into organisations of fantastic names—"Universal Supply Stores," "The Paymore Dairy Company," and so on. If they are individual traders they federate—"The Coalowners' Federation," and so they agree to raise the cost of the commodities taxed, and the worker, who must have these things, pays. During recent years more "progressive" legislation has been placed on the Statute Book, but the cost of living has gone up simultaneously at least 15 per cent. as the result of this action by the monopolists.

An Object Lesson.

This housing question is an object lesson. This time these Liberals and Tories call themselves a "Property



MR. A. G. WALKDEN.
Prospective Labour Candidate, Wolverhampton West.

Owners' Association," and proceed to put into operation the process of passing on, and they do it to such an extent that the tenant will pay the landlords' extra costs more than two-fold. Then, after he has made the worker pay his taxes for him he has the impudence to come at election times and give as his qualifications to represent you: "I am a large ratepayer." Next time he does it, ask him to prove it. I am inclined to think that in the future the worker will give him the "go-by" and plump for the people who are out to prevent this sort of thing—the Labour Party, and thus will evil bring forth that which is good.

A Revival.

We are to have a Trades Union Mission Week in Wolverhampton. Its object is sufficiently demonstrated by its title. The Trades Council has long realised that in a town of the size of ours there ought to be more Trade Unionists than 5,000, which is approximately the number at present, so, like some religious societies, they are organising a "revival" week. Every effort is to be made to demonstrate to the workers what Trade Unionism stands for, and how by combination in their respective Trade Unions they will be able to better their own conditions and those of their fellow workers and increase the standard of living of Labour as a class. With this object in view the Unions affiliated to the Trades Council are bringing into the town their national and district organisers to preach the gospel of Trade Unionism. Commencing with Sunday, April 27, meetings will be held on every available spot during dinner hour and in the evenings, and I predict a wave of enthusiasm for Trade Unionism which has seldom been equalled in the district. Apart from the meetings every Trade Unionist is called upon to take his share in persuading his brother non-Unionist to come into the ranks and prove that by solidarity alone can Labour hold its own in the fight for justice. A full list of meetings and speakers will be found in another column.

Famous Orators.

Sunday, April 27, will be a red-letter day for the town. The Trade Union Week is to commence with a mass meeting in the Empire Palace, to be addressed by Mr. C. Duncan, M.P. (General Secretary, Workers' Union), and Mr. R. C. Wallhead (Labour candidate for Coventry and a member of the National Administrative Committee of the I.L.P.). Friend Walkden will preside. Both Mr. Duncan and Mr. Wallhead have the reputation of being among the best speakers in the country, and the message they have to deliver concerns every worker in the town, whatever political colour he may go under. Mr. Walkden's qualifications are already so well known that it is unnecessary to repeat them here. I should advise all who want to take part in this gathering to be early as there are already indications that it will be a record gathering.

Churches and Labour.

What with "football" Sundays, "hospital" Sundays, "civic" Sundays, and a host of other special observances, I am rather surprised that the Sunday which has come to be recognised by the great majority of workers as "Labour Day"—the Sunday nearest to May 1st—has, up to now, not been acknowledged by any of the churches in the town. Surely the sanctity of Labour equals that of football, and should be accorded at least as much regard! Has not the worker as much need of the sympathy and support of the Church as the footballer? It appears to me that the only construction to be placed upon the attitude of the Churches is that they consider he has not. I hope I am wrong. If I am, it is not yet too late for some of our spiritual pastors and masters to take the matter up this year and devote one Sunday to this object.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER.

The following inspiring message has been received from Mr. Walkden whom we hope to have in our midst throughout the Trade Union Week:—

FELLOW WORKERS, —

I am indeed glad to know you are having such an extensive series of meetings for the week ending May Sunday—Labour Day—and I feel certain that a great strengthening of all the Trade Union branches will result. There has never been a more favourable time for such an effort, and the enthusiasm and thoroughness with which the work has been planned will ensure for it far-reaching and lasting success. The workers now realise the need of developing their organisations, both for defence and for progress—industrial and political.

The Trades Council decision to have a Monthly Organ for house-to-house distribution is further evidence of the bold new spirit of vigorous enterprise that characterises the Labour forces in Wolverhampton to-day. This spirit will, I am sure, find free and unfettered expression in the pages of the *Worker*, and these will be read with eagerness month by month in every worker's home. It heralds the dawn of a new era in the history of the local Labour movement and the re-birth of the fine fighting spirit of forty years ago when the Midlands constituted the most forward district in the kingdom. With fraternal greetings and best wishes.—Yours in the fight,
A. G. WALKDEN.

What "The Chiel" hears round the Town.

That the advent of the *Worker* has created widespread interest.

That our friends the enemy are already in fear and trembling.

That the labourers of the town want more money.

That they mean to get it.

That they will know how to dispose of it.

That their families will derive great benefit from the increase.

That they may even go to a picture palace.

(Continued on next column.)

WORDS OF WELCOME FROM FRIENDS OF LABOUR.

REV. J. A. SHAW.

Heartiest greetings to *The Worker*! In this important centre of industrial and civic life the needs, demands, and aspirations of Labour should have at least one organ of adequate and fearless expression. The great thing for all friends of Labour is education—not only education in social theory, but also in the right use of the power they have over their own destiny. They should see to it that no party or class filches this power from them, but that it is used for their own good and advantage. In the clash of many interests they should be able to distinguish their own cause. To inform, to inspire, to unite—these are, I conceive, some of the main aims of *The Worker*. The moment of its appearance is opportune. May it prove an efficient instrument for civic and industrial progress.

CHAS. DUNCAN, M.P.

Heartiest congratulations to *The Wolverhampton Worker*, with its circulation of 15,000 copies. If it is diligently read and studied it should become a "Wonder Worker." Ordinary newspapers are rapidly degenerating. They only give "impressions," and the faintest impressions of the truth seem to find the greatest acceptance therein. People must know that now-a-days, if they want the truth, the whole truth, and not a watered-down semblance of it, they must go direct for it. They will, I am sure, get what they require in *The Wolverhampton Worker*, and I am sure the workers of Wolverhampton will work with inspiration, enthusiasm, and zeal until every worker takes your *Worker*, reads your *Worker*, swears by your *Worker*, and passes it along religiously to the barbarian outside the gates.

THOS. RICHARDSON, M.P.

The watchword of the Labour Party in Wolverhampton, as elsewhere, must be: "Educate! Educate!! Organise! Organise!!" To that end your local Labour paper should be of great service. I wish you success in your effort, and would appeal to all Trade Unionists and Socialists to assist in perfecting the Labour organisation in Wolverhampton, so that when the day of battle arrives Labour will triumph.

G. J. WARDLE, M.P.

I wish every success to the *Wolverhampton Worker*. Nothing can take the place of local work, and if the Labour movement is to progress in Wolverhampton there is no surer way of securing that object than by a vigorous local paper.

E. FAULKNER (Wolverhampton I.L.P.).

Perhaps the biggest hindrance to a more rapid growth of the Labour and Socialist Parties is its inadequate means of expression. The platform by itself is insufficient. The Liberal and Tory have the Press medium to express their views and to distort ours. Therefore we must have an independent Press through which we can place before the people in unadulterated fashion our ideals and our politics. As a help in this direction the *Wolverhampton Worker* is welcome, and I hope it will be a complete success.

MRS. DIDERIDGE (Women's Labour League).

All good wishes for the success and prosperity of the *Wolverhampton Worker*. Its need becomes every day more apparent, and I trust, on behalf of the Women's Labour League, that it will prove a staunch champion of the needs of the women and children.

(Continued from previous column.)

That a man in a local asylum refused to take food.

That it was stated if he was not fed he would die.

That he was forcibly fed—and died.

That he must have died cured; or, that he was murdered to prevent him committing suicide.

THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK.

LORD ROBERTS' CITIZEN ARMY.

When speaking recently in the Town Hall, Leeds, Lord Roberts declared, in advocating the establishment of his "Citizen Army," that it would under no circumstances be required to aid in putting down strikes, and that no Government would dare to use such force for such a purpose. Lord Roberts' plan of compulsory military service (you must not say "Conscription"!) is being recommended because of its similarity to the system in operation in Switzerland, but Mr. John Ward, M.P., the Secretary of the Navvies' Union, when visiting that country not long ago, was informed by responsible representatives of the Trade Unions at a public meeting held in the Co-operative Society's rooms at Berne, that the Swiss Citizen Army, despite its democratic organisation, had been used by the Central Government for suppressing industrial disturbances and shooting down workmen on strike. Particulars were given of thirteen strikes in which this had taken place, many workers having been wounded and eight killed. The fact that in some of these cases the soldiers were strikers themselves until called upon by the Authorities, demonstrates the enormously powerful influence of military discipline upon all men who are called up for such service. The great point to remember in connection with all this so-called "democratic" military service propaganda is that any man who refused to obey orders would be liable to be court-martialled and shot.

A WARNING TO RAILWAYMEN.

We learn that the railway companies are inviting employees between the ages of 19 and 30 to enrol in what is known as the "Railway Reserve." The men are informed that they will only be liable to be called out for service in case of imminent national danger, or of "great emergency." The latter is a very elastic term capable of being stretched to cover all kinds of troubles, including strikes. Of course, the men are assured that there is no such thought in the minds of the Authorities, and that only 345 men are required for the whole country. If the latter figure is correct it seems very strange that there should be such extensive recruiting for this force. We are informed that it is being pushed in all parts of the country. The workers are being tempted to join by an offer of a retaining fee of 6d. per day to be paid quarterly, and enlistment is for a minimum period of six years; but there is a proviso that the men will be discharged from the Railway Reserve and their 6d. per day cut off in all cases where they cease to be employed by the railway company under which they were serving at the time of enlistment. Obviously this arrangement will help to shackle the men to the railway service. So far as Wolverhampton is concerned a call has been made for goods checkers, clerks, guards, signalmen, and shunters. Men are also wanted from the locomotive and engineering departments.

A FRIEND OF THE POOR.

It is not often that "agitators" are given spontaneous testimonials from Ministers of orthodox religion, and the recent utterance of the Rev. C. H. Luckman is therefore all the more noteworthy. When preaching in the Wesleyan Church at Knighton, Radnorshire, on the subject of self-sacrifice, he demonstrated that such a spirit was manifested in the life of Keir Hardie, who had had the opportunity of turning his talents to lucrative account in other channels but had stuck to the poor because he loved them. Whether his outspoken criticism as to conditions in India was right or wrong, Mr. Luckman took the view that public opinion was coming round to Hardie's way of thinking, and that he had said what he did say because he loved the people of India.

EXPLOITING THE WOMEN.

Many good people have displayed commendable concern upon the question of the exploitation of women by the inhuman monsters who conduct the "White Slave" Traffic, but they usually shrink from concerning themselves about the

under which working girls are expected to resist every alluring temptation is made clear by the Board of Trade figures published last month in a report which deals with over forty separate industries. This report shows that the average earnings of women working full time were as follows:—12s. 2d. per week in the paper and printing trades; 11s. in the pottery, brick, glass, and chemical trades; 11s. 5d. in the food, drink, and tobacco trades; and 12s. 4d. in the miscellaneous group of trades. About one-third of the total number of women working full time receive under 10s. per week. In our opinion this under-payment is at the root of the whole social evil, as it causes the profits of the capitalists to be so great that those who are that way disposed are able to pay sums to the White Slave Traffic drivers sufficiently large to induce them to run the risk of the lash and penal servitude in order to procure victims for their wealthy patrons. We earnestly hope that the pure and chivalrous-minded people referred to in our first sentence will study the subject more deeply in the light of these facts, but we also call upon both men and women workers to help themselves by strengthening their Trade Unions with the determined object of securing a decent minimum wage and better conditions of life.

"WAR AGAINST POVERTY."

The fine series of Conferences that have been held in the chief cities of the Kingdom, under the joint auspices of the Independent Labour Party and the Fabian Society, with the co-operation of local Trades Councils and other bodies, for a "War Against Poverty," was brought to a conclusion on April 19th at Bolton. No less than 5,158 delegates have attended these Conferences, and resolutions have been adopted calling for a reduction in the Hours of Labour, the establishment of a Minimum Wage, the recognition of a Minimum of Child Nurture and Healthy Homes for All, the prevention of Unemployment and the improvement of Insurance against Sickness. These Conferences have undoubtedly done a vast amount of good, and their influence was strongly manifested during the debates in the House of Commons last session on the question of providing a minimum of 25s. per week in the Railways (No. 2) Bill.

"YE ARE IDLE."

Although the shipbuilding industry in this country has made great progress in recent years and is now in the midst of such a boom (no less than 563 new ships being on the stocks, with an aggregate tonnage exceeding two million tons), that the masters are making money at an unprecedented rate, they are endeavouring to deny to their workers any share in this increased prosperity. According to the General Secretary of the Boiler Makers' Society, the wage rates are no higher than they were 12 years ago. Everyone knows the cost of living has increased very seriously during that period, but immediately it became known that the men contemplated putting in a demand for an advance of wages the employers displayed intense hostility to the very idea of such a thing. They commenced to fight against it in the meanest and most despicable fashion by spreading the monstrous "inexactitude" that the men were already earning money at the rate of £300 a year, although they would only work four days a week and spend the other two days attending football matches and funerals. A storm of indignant protest has been aroused by this malicious slandering of workmen who have proved themselves unexcelled among all the workers of the world for skill and efficiency in their trade. No one can deny that British working shipbuilders turn out the finest vessels the world has ever seen. And it is through this faithful workmanship that their employers are able to hold their own against all competitors. No wonder their dastardly attack on the character of their men is creating a feeling of bitter resentment. It will be remembered that the tyrant of Egypt who dismissed the appeal of the workers of Israel by contemptuously tell-

TRADES COUNCIL NOTES.

Much as one welcomes the opportunity of placing the monthly doings of the Trades Council before the public one realises that in some respects it must be a repetition and therefore lack originality. However, the advent of *The Worker* is hailed with much joy by the movement, if only for the reason that there will be an opportunity of placing on record a correct and full statement of matters that are, as a rule, left severely alone by our—at most times—valuable contemporaries. To that end I have been deputed, as one of the Executive Committee, to give a monthly *resumé* of the work of the Council.

Now to the record. At the last meeting the attention of delegates was called to the series of lectures to be delivered monthly at the Labour Rooms, under the auspices of the Railwaymen's Union, on "Industrial History," by a lecturer of the Central Labour College. The second lecture has just been given, and the need for such a course is palpably obvious to anyone who has heard or read the viewpoint of the average University professor. Industrial history will read quite different when written by people who have actually been participants in the making of such history in the industrial field.

On March 27 Mr. E. Edwards, a member of the Board of Management of the Central Labour College, gave an address to the Trades Council at the Rooms. The address was very enjoyable, interesting, and instructive. Comparisons were made at length with other educational institutions, and the whole of the history of the trouble which led to the severance of Mr. Dennis Hird from Ruskin College was dealt with.

The outcome of several joint conferences between members of the Gasworkers' Society, the Tramway and Vehicle Workers, and the Workers' Union has been the holding of a public meeting to initiate a movement for the fixing of a 23s. minimum wage for general labourers. At the committee meetings prior to the open meetings much valuable help was rendered by Councillors J. Gregory and Mr. Ellery (Birmingham), and at the public meeting, in addition to the organisers of the several societies concerned, Mr. A. G. Walkden gave an inspiring address. The local Labour councillors, too, both by their presence and words of encouragement, gave a healthy and heartening send-off to what is sincerely hoped will terminate in this very necessary but very under-rated class of workmen receiving an increase in their weekly income. The following is the text of the resolution carried at the meeting:—

"That this meeting of the workers of Wolverhampton and district is of opinion that the time has arrived when it becomes an absolute necessity to establish a minimum wage in order to eliminate sweating from industry, and to enable the people to live a human life. Further, we believe this can best be brought about by organisation, and pledges itself to use all the means within its power to induce every worker to at once join one of the existing Trade Unions for that purpose."

Another important movement inaugurated under Trades Council auspices is the Tenants' Defence League. This is fully dealt with on another page. But it is interesting to note that although the League has developed into a non-party organisation the President of the Trades Council (Mr. J. Whittaker, J.P.) has been elected its president, and many leading Trade Unionists are members of the committee.

The Council meeting of April 17 was addressed by Councillor H. Simmonds (Stafford) who dealt at length with the Housing Problem in its various phases.

Much interest is being aroused in the forthcoming Trade Union mission work, and the result should be a great impetus to the movement. The "nons" outside their Unions after the meetings that are to be held should be very few indeed.

A number of old faces were to be noticed at the Easter Monday Whist Drive, and the general opinion was that the "Social" was a marked success, and a reminder of the happy evenings that were spent in the early *Clarion* soiree days.

Congratulations to the local painters on the valiant fight they have put up for

OUR LETTER BOX.

MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE (?).

Why Not Cheaper Tram Fares?

Sir,—I am glad to hear that a purely Labour paper is to be started in Wolverhampton, and I have no doubt that, like other Labour papers, it will advocate the nationalisation or municipalisation of various industries, especially those that are naturally monopolies; but I should like to point out that there is a great deal of room for improvement in some of the undertakings already in the hands of the Municipality in Wolverhampton.

For instance, the tram fares are such that they cause an enormous number of people to refrain from riding; furthermore, the service of cars is too meagre. We have to pay a penny for a very short run on the trams here, and more if we want to go a little farther. I am strongly of opinion that no tram fare in a town the size of Wolverhampton should exceed a penny, and that halfpenny fares should be instituted for short lengths. I am sure that if these changes were instituted more than double the number of people would use the tramcars. At present the majority of the Town Councillors seem more concerned about making a profit from our municipal undertakings than of rendering them of the utmost service to the public.—Yours etc., FORWARD.

HOUSEHOLDERS' GRIEVANCES.

Dear Sir,—I learn from a member of the Trades Council that your paper will endeavour to assist the Tenants' Defence League. I am pleased to hear this, as neither of the ordinary newspapers here appear to relish the agitation against excessive rents, and one of them (the *Star*—growing dim, fear), has practically boycotted the subject up to now. I think every worker should join the League, and thus unite to fight the extortions of the property-owners and to compel the Town Council to do its duty in the matter of housing. I am inclined to think both these parties will climb down shortly, but in that case I hope the League will not be disbanded, but will turn its attention to such things as the exorbitant price of milk, which is now 1d. per quart more than it ought to be at this time of the year. I could say something about coal, and other household necessities, but will leave that for another time. Good luck to the *Worker*!—Yours etc., HARASSED HOUSEWIFE.

WOLVERHAMPTON PARKS.—A SUGGESTION.

Sir,—I have read with interest and some amusement the semi-poetic effusions that have recently appeared in our local papers regarding the charming appearance of our West Park. I suppose everybody feels something of the call of nature in the springtime, and I am as thankful as anybody for the fact that we have one creditable park in our midst; but the interest of a visit to it might be greatly increased by the provision of an aviary such as I have seen in other public parks in the Midlands. A large wire-netting enclosure in a sheltered position could, at slight cost, be erected and stocked with specimens of all our beautiful English finches, together with some of the lesser parrots, and a few gold and silver pheasants. These birds are quite happy in an aviary; they are easy to keep, being all seed-eaters, and they would be a constant source of joy to the large numbers of children who visit West Park. Indeed, I see no reason why this idea should not be developed into a small "Zoo" in one part of the Park. Plants are beautiful and interesting, but birds and animals are still more so.—Yours etc., NATURE STUDENT.

[Our correspondent makes no mention of the East Park. What have the children in that district done that they should be forgotten?—Ed.]

(Continued from previous column.)

secure all they asked, they resumed work with an advance of 3d. per hour.

Congratulations also to the Wellington carpenters on their great victory for Trade Unionism. These comrades in the neighbouring town recently came out for an increase of wages from 7d. to 8d. per hour, and after a strike of a few days' duration their demands were conceded.

COWARDS!

The strong men who represent the local Property Owners' Association are afraid of two women! They agreed to meet a deputation representing the Tenants' Defence League to discuss the question of the increased rents, and this deputation was duly appointed at a public meeting where the desire that some women should be included was unanimously approved. Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. Wilkes were accordingly elected to voice the views of the housewives, but when the deputation presented itself the Property Owners' Association refused to negotiate! They objected to the presence of the two ladies because, forsooth, they were not direct rent-payers, but they themselves were fortified by their own expert agents who are not property owners! The real reason for the objection is that the whole crowd of grabbers who grind the faces of the poor are afraid of Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. Wilkes—two of the ablest women in Wolverhampton. Never was the badness of a case better proved.

A COMING EVENT.

Interesting Notes about Wolverhampton's Floral Fete.

In our advertisement columns appears a notice of the Wolverhampton Floral Fete, to be held in the West Park on the 8th, 9th, and 10th July next. We understand that a very big effort is being made this year to beat all records in celebration of the 25th year of this famous show. We have been favoured with a schedule, and find that, in addition to the magnificent classes for which prizes have been awarded in the past, there are many new and attractive features, which it is confidently expected will bring together the greatest growers from all over the kingdom. For instance, a special prize of £50 is this year being awarded for a display of growing bedding-out plants arranged in the form of a garden in any style which the exhibitor may think fit, and a special portion of the big tent will be reserved for this exhibit. It cannot fail to be a brilliant sight; and new classes for collections of cut roses and carnations have also been included.

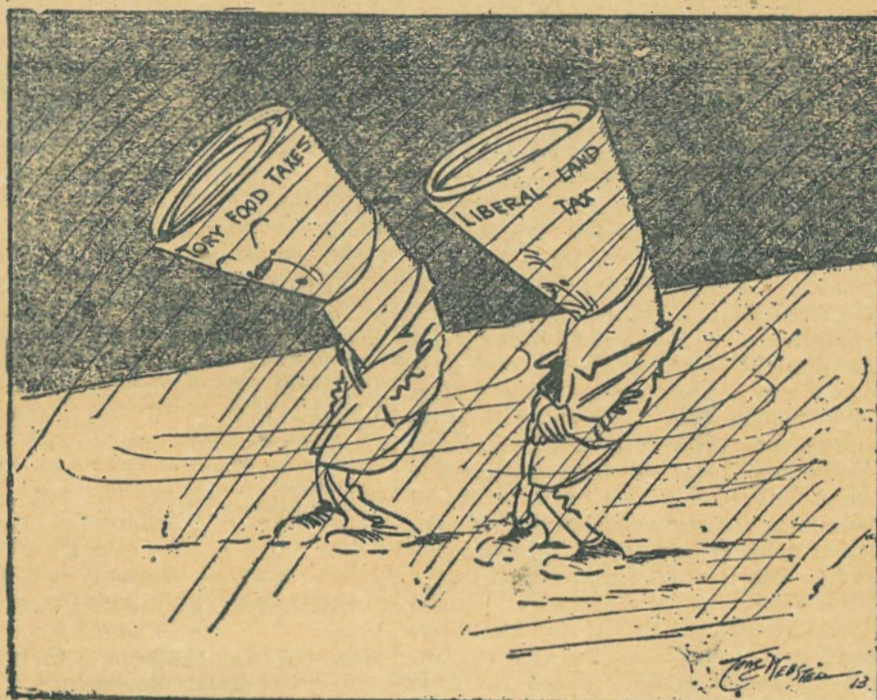
There is no doubt that the schedule this year far exceeds anything that has hitherto been attempted in the annals of this fete, and the actual show of flowers and fruit will be quite equal, if not superior, to that seen at any show in the country. It is interesting too, to hear that every one who visits the show, however late in the day, will be able to inspect the exhibits, as arrangements have been made for all the tents to be lighted by electricity. The prize money all round has been increased, for which we think the committee of the show are to be congratulated.

They evidently believe in the principle of spending money when they make it, and it is hoped that their enterprise will receive its proper reward.

Apart from the horticultural section of the show, we notice an addition to the bands, for which this show has been noted in the past. The ever-popular Coldstream Guards are paying a return visit, and will be accompanied by the celebrated band of the Scots Guards; and in addition, the Scots Guards are also bringing their pipers and dancers, which will, we have no doubt, be a great draw and novelty. A military tournament on ambitious lines is being arranged, and, as usual, the other attractions will include horse-leaping, acrobatic entertainments, and fireworks.

We are informed by the secretary that with regard to the stage performances a special effort is being made this year. More money is being spent for securing first-class turns than has ever been done before, and among the performers are three very big attractions quite new to Wolverhampton.

CRADDOCK'S WONDERFUL BOOTS.



DRIVEN FROM HOME.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

WHAT THE LOCAL PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS ARE DOING

LABOUR REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE.

Known as "the L.R.C.," this body is composed of delegates from the various Trade Unions affiliated to the Trades and Labour Council, the Independent Labour Party, Women's Labour League, and other associations, and represents the political side of the Trade Union movement.

The Osborne Judgment, having been largely reversed, the Trade Unions have greater political freedom, and are now able to supply the sinews of war. The L.R.C. will therefore be no longer handicapped as it has been in the past, and it is hoped the Unions which are not affiliated will come along at once.

The objects of the L.R.C. are to run Parliamentary and municipal candidates, and it has at the present time three representatives on the Town Council and three on the Board of Guardians. It has secured Mr. A. G. Walkden (General Secretary of the Railway Clerks' Association) as prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate for the West Division, and has a suite of rooms in Queen-square known as the Labour Assembly Rooms, from which centre it is busily engaged in propaganda work.

The whole of the machinery of the Labour Party's organisation has been overhauled.

Strong Ward Committees have been set up with active bands of workers. The meetings the candidate has addressed in the wards have been marked by a grand spirit of enthusiasm, and it is evident the workers appreciate having a candidate of their own.

Mr. Walkden has visited the majority of the large Trade Unions, and at all times has met with cordial receptions. Resolutions approving his candidature were passed, the members pledging themselves to do all in their power to assist in securing his triumphant return at the head of the poll.

Preparations are in hand for several further meetings, and the present year promises to be one in which Labour will make still greater headway in Wolverhampton.

C. W. H.

WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE.

An organisation not so widely known as it is desired, yet whose objects are far-reaching in their effects, is the Women's Labour League. It was formed in 1912, and already possesses a strong membership, but, of course, it is desirable that this shall be extended in every conceivable direction.

The League has for its objects the furtherance of Labour representation on all local governing bodies, and in Parliament, and all ladies who are in sympathy with this ideal are eligible.

It is especially desirable that the wives and daughters of Trade Unionists should enrol themselves as members, and by their attendance at the meetings, educate themselves still further in the principles of labour and their relation to themselves, and in the advantages of having those principles represented on governing bodies.

Meetings of the League are held every Wednesday in the Labour Assembly Rooms, Queen-square as under:—

- 3.0.—Sewing meeting, with the object of raising funds to carry on the work.
- 7.30.—Meetings for discussion and mutual improvement. At this meeting papers are read, followed by a discussion.

The Branch possesses a very energetic and capable secretary in Mrs. A. Dideridge. Of course, part of the National organisation through which it is kept in constant touch with what co-workers are doing all over the country.

A hearty invitation is extended to all who desire to see the conditions of life under which the working women of this country have to exist considerably improved, and the opening out of a brighter future for the children. This can be done by organising on a sound basis.

Working women of Wolverhampton, do your part in the fight; join the Women's Labour League and our Cause must succeed.

I.L.P. NOTES.

The present Branch was formed, one might say, out of the enthusiasm created at the 1906 Parliamentary Election, when Fred Richards so sensationally defeated the late Sir Alfred Hickman.

Thus we are in our seventh year. This fact of itself indicates that, although we lost the seat to Mr. Bird at the subsequent General Election, the 1906 triumph was more than an ephemeral one for Labour and Socialism in the town. The Parliamentary seat is lost (temporarily), but the cause is marching on, and I believe the day is not far distant when in Wolverhampton, as in other industrial centres, the Labour and Socialist forces will be paramount.

This is our goal, and the I.L.P. is bearing its part in the fight.

What has the local Branch done, and what is it doing now? Those who are not in close touch may ask. Just roughly then I will indicate its activities.

The chief-work lies in propaganda; the placing before the public the gospel of Socialism. To this end the I.L.P. has brought into the town many of the finest speakers, among whom may be mentioned Keir Hardie, Philip Snowden, Fred Jowett, W. C. Anderson (all of whom have

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

RODEN'S

RELIABLE

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

passed through the presidential chair), Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Glasier, and others too numerous to mention.

R. C. Wallhead, N.A.C., Parliamentary candidate for Coventry, one of the most striking successes in our movement of recent years, is due to visit Wolverhampton on April 27, so please make up your minds early not to miss him.

In addition to bringing these speakers to the town, we have held hundreds of meetings on Snow Hill, Market Place, and other centres.

During the coming summer open-air meetings will be held every Wednesday evening on Snow Hill, and if you would know more of this movement, don't miss these.

We have spent scores of pounds on the purchase and distribution of Socialist literature. We have also financed and organised candidatures for the Council and Guardians, and in the future we hope to do still more in this direction.

All this is what we may style the external side of our movement. In the next issue I shall deal with the inside. E.F.

P.S.A. NOTES.

At the request of the Editor I have consented to make a few comments under the above heading. My first words must be to wish the local Trade Unionists every success in their effort to establish a monthly paper. That there is a need for such an undertaking cannot be denied, because it is obvious that a journal owned and controlled by the workers is in a position to deal with matters of vital importance to the workers themselves in an exhaustive manner, by the elucidation, from time to time, of the many problems with which we are surrounded.

And it is because I believe such an effort will result in much good work being accomplished, and, also, because of the fact that there is a strong bond between the Trade Unionists' movement and the P.S.A. and Brotherhood movement in this and other countries, that I feel that locally, we ought to realise, more than we have ever done before, the objects we have in common.

That many of our aims are identical has been amply demonstrated, not only at our annual meetings held in the Agricultural Hall, when we have had the privilege of listening to such sterling democrats as Sir Oliver Lodge, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Lansbury, etc., but also in the fact that in the classes themselves, a broader, a more democratic spirit is manifested, and addresses are given by many workers in the cause of social reform in this town and neighbourhood.

Therefore, I would appeal to all thinking men and women of every shade of political opinion, of every phase of religious thought, who have an hour to spare any (or every) Sunday afternoon from three o'clock till four, to visit the various P.S.A. classes or Brotherhoods in Wolverhampton, and see for themselves what is being done for the cause of truth and social justice.

*You stand for Brotherhood!
So do we!
You stand for Peace!
So do we!*

If that word "Brotherhood" stands for anything, it stands for the social gospel in its broadest sense:—"Love, Liberty, and Justice."

Let us realise that the creed we stand for is not only concerned with the world to come, but a creed that applies to the world that now is. A creed that means that every human being is to have the chance to live.

F.J.T.

ADULT SCHOOL NOTES.

Not the least among the peoples' movements in the town is the Adult School movement. Springing out of the heart of Quakerism in the 19th century, it is fast becoming one of the most beneficent movements of our time. Whether the men and women who, sixty or seventy years ago, initiated the first adult school had in their minds all the principles which have become closely associated with it in later years, one cannot with certainty say, but as the movement has developed, certain features in its organisation have come into existence, which distinguish it from other religious bodies.

A thoughtful perusal of "Adult School Aims" reveals to the orthodox a novelty of expression indicative of a new standpoint, an altered attitude towards the great problems of social and spiritual life. "To make and develop men and women, and to teach them the art of life"; "To study the Bible frankly, freely, reverently, and without prejudice"; "To establish an unsectarian basis for Christian effort." All these are new, both in conception and expression, to most men, and to none more than to the ordinary church or chapel goer.

Though primary a religious movement, and even to-day with a set purpose to further the study of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, it has been inevitably led to consider the ordinary problems of social life, and to search for knowledge as a direct means to increasing its power. Gradually the movement has broadened out into a great university with a message of evangelism and education, and is bringing to the people of our country a deeper, wider, and purer spiritual and mental life. And in Wolverhampton there

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: Conn. 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.

is now in existence a Social Service Committee which in the future may have far-reaching effects in the town.

It would be difficult to imagine England without its adult schools, and their silent influence in the past has been greater than we shall be able to estimate. A branch of this great movement has been established in Wolverhampton, adult schools being held every Sunday morning at:

Bradmore (8 a.m.) Newhampton
Fallings Park... (8 a.m.) Road... (8-30 a.m.)
Heath Town... (8 a.m.) Snow Hill (9 a.m.)
Lea Road ... (8-30 a.m.) Stafford St. (9-30 a.m.)
Merridale St. ... (8 a.m.) Park Village ... (8 a.m.)
Mount Zion ... (8 a.m.) York Street ... (9 a.m.)
Wombourne... (8 a.m.)

The movement has a membership of between 600 and 700.

A PARABLE.

The Master, the Man, and the Mule.

Once there was a Certain Poor Man who was out of a Job, and because of that fact he went and joined himself unto a Certain Rich Man who had Jobs to dispose of, and from that fact was called the Master. Now this Certain Rich Man was the Owner of a Mule, and he set the Poor Man to work with the Mule to cultivate a piece of ground. Now it came to pass that after some days the Mule was taken sick, whereupon the Owner of the Mule sent forth and brought in a Veterinary to look after him, and he himself sat up all night with Mule and attended to his every need, as a result of which he was soon cured and able to work again.

And this the Owner of the Beast did, not because the Beast was a Mule, but because he had paid Money for him and he was therefore Property.

And it came to pass again after some more days that the Poor Man fell sick, and was unable to work; but the Owner did not send forth and bring in a Physician to look after him as he had brought in a Veterinary to look after the Mule, nor did he concern himself at all about the Poor Man, save to hire Another Poor Man to take his place, so that the work on the farm might not stop.

So the Poor Man had no one to see to his welfare, and after some days he died for the lack of medicine and proper attention. And they carried him out and buried him, not because he was a Man, but for Sanitary Reasons.

Now the Owner of the Mule had looked after him when he was sick because he was Property, and it would cost money to replace him should he die; but he failed to look after the Man when he was sick because, while he, too, was Property, yet it would cost nothing to replace him, since there were plenty more to be had for the asking. Yea, verily, it seemeth to be a man up a tree that it were better to be the Master's Mule than the Master's Man.

—Appeal to Reason.

**GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.
Also Mr. Handel Booth.**

BY HERBERT MORRISON.

Mr. CROOKS at 10-57 moved that the question be put, but Mr. HANDEL BOOTH (Lib., Pontefract) rose and talked the motion out. At 11 o'clock the Chairman remarked: The motion falls.

Mr. CROOKS: Bow-wow for the great party! The debate was adjourned, and the House rose at 11-4.

The debate had been upon the Labour Party's motion in favour of the establishment of a 30s. minimum wage for all adult workers in urban districts and an adequate wage for those in rural areas.

You see, many of our people are very poor. Honourable and Right Honourable Gentlemen, and even Noble Lords and Learned Ones, have remarked upon that fact. The Labour Party has also remarked it. For some while now, politicians have had occasion to give the poverty problem a "show" in their speeches. By-elections have witnessed its discussion. Houghton-le-Spring, for example. . . . So the Labour Party thought that as many of our people were so poor it would be good to stop sweating. They thought that the obvious thing to do was to establish a National Legal Minimum Wage. So they introduced a motion in favour thereof to the House of Commons, for the consideration of gentlemen who are so free with sympathy for the poor, of whom we have so many.

But Mr. Frederick Handel Booth, Liberal Member of Parliament for Pontefract, rose and talked the motion out. Mr. Frederick Handel Booth came to our suburb of Brixton a short while since to speak at our vicar's Brotherhood. So I suppose that Mr. Booth is a Christian. I wonder what the Rev. Mr. Waldron, our vicar, thinks about it? I wonder what my Christian friends of the Brotherhood think about it?

I have turned over the pages of "Who's Who," and have found therein: BOOTH, Frederick Handel, M.P. (Lib.) Pontefract since 1911; Iron-master; b. nr. Manchester, 1867; m. Miss Dreydel. Educ.: Bolton-le-Moor High School. Chairman Yorkshire Iron and Coal Co.; and British Dominions and General Insurance Co.; contested King's Lynn 1900. Address: Brotherton Hall, Ferrybridge; 106, Grosvenor-road, S.W. Club: National Liberal.

"Iron-master . . . Chairman . . . Iron and Coal Co. . . and Insurance Co. . . ." So this is the Mr. Booth who rose and talked the Minimum Wage resolution out. But how was it that he was able to do so? Because he is a member of Parliament, and the rules of the House permit important and urgent things to be talked out. But who sent him to Parliament? The electors of Pontefract. And what sort of a place is that? An industrial centre near Wakefield in Yorkshire. What sort of people are the electors? Chiefly working people; very many of them poor. And it was their M.P. who talked the anti-poverty resolution out? Yes. Then for the love of God tell me: Why did they elect a person of that stamp to represent them in the House of Commons?

Ah! That is getting to fundamentals. I confess that when first I read the report of the debate I felt bitter. I felt as bitter as the W.S.P.U. members must have felt, and as I felt, when the Judge who sentenced Mrs. Pankhurst to three years' penal servitude refused to allow her to tell of his brother who did not arrive at the assize court one day.

I remembered Mr. Booth as a member of the Marconi Committee; I conceived him as one of those undesirables who toady to Cabinets; and I wanted to punch his nose. I confess it. I felt revolutionary; yet, normally, I do not believe there ever was, or ever will be, a revolution. There arose within me a bitter personal hatred of the man who talked this motion out, and of all men who talk motions out; men who evade issues. But, normally, I do not believe in hatred; it is foolish and weak.

Then there was Mr. Percy Alden (Lib., Tottenham) and Mr. Tom Wing (Lib., Houghton-le-Spring), he who has no fear for the Front Bench. . . . They moved and seconded a vague amendment.

**ANALYSIS OF THE COMPOSITION
OF THE WOLVERHAMPTON TOWN
COUNCIL.**

The following is an analysis of the businesses, etc., in which members of our Council are engaged:—

	Lib.	Con.	Nat.	Lab.
Accountant	1			
Architect		1		
Assurance Superintendent	1			
Auctioneers	1	1		
Boot and Shoe Manfr.	1			
Brewery Directors			3	
Builders	2			
Carpenter				1
Chemists		2		
Clicker		1		
Civil Engineer		1		
Dentist		1		
Doctors	1	2		
Furniture Dealers		1		
Grocer—Wholesale		1		
Hardware Merchants		1		
Jeweller	1			
Leather Merchant	1			
Licensed Victuallers		2	1	
Manure Manufacturer		1		
Master Tin Plate Worker	1			
Master Butcher		1		
Master Fruiterer	1			
Master Tailor	1	1		
Motor Accessories Manfr.			1	
Motor Manufacturer		2		
Pawnbroker	1			
Pawnbroker (retired)	1			
Railway Cartage Agent	1			
Solicitors	1	2		
Tin Plate Worker				1
Trade Union Secretary				1
Undertaker	1			
Varnish Manufacturer	1	1		
	18	25	2	3

RAILWAY NATIONALISATION.

How the Companies are Assisting in a Great Movement.

In connection with the campaign for the nationalisation of railways, the following letter addressed recently by the Mayor of Sheffield to the Press of that City, speaks for itself:—

Sir,—As a railway shareholder, I have received a circular letter from the Railway Committee of the Anti-Socialist Union of Great Britain, 58-60, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W., in which railway shareholders are asked to combine for the purpose of opposing any movement for the nationalisation of railways, and I have replied as follows:—

"I have duly received your circular letter dated February 22, and can only say in reply, as a shareholder in a number of railways, and as president of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, the railway companies themselves, by their present attitude towards traders and trade generally, will do more within six months to bring about the nationalisation of railways than all the Socialists in England can in five years.—Yours etc.

"THOS. W. WARD.

"Albion Works, Sheffield.

"February 28."

There are few people who will not agree with the foregoing, and it is a striking commentary upon the unbusinesslike way in which our railways are run, that every section of the community, except their professional and paid apologists, is incensed against them.

**THE BELGIAN STRIKE FOR
POLITICAL EQUALITY.**

The magnificent response to the Belgian Labour leaders' call to the workers of that country to withdraw from industry of all kinds until the governing classes have agreed to the popular demand for a proper democratic franchise is one of the most encouraging episodes of the day. The success of our Belgian comrades will have an incalculable moral influence throughout the civilised world. It will deepen the bond of sympathy and solidarity which unites the workers of all lands and constitutes the most valuable safeguard to the peace of Europe. This unprecedented event will give a fresh impetus to the English movement for Adult Suffrage, and will strengthen belief in the possibility of a general international strike to stop a European war in the event of such a catastrophe being precipitated by the blunders of statesmen and the insatiable greed of the "armour-plate patriots."

**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, £1 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 1d. each.
Dinner and Pudding Plates from 1d.

Good Work. Promptitude. Moderate Charges

COX & TUSTIN,

Printers & Stationers,

Telephone: CENTRAL ARCADE.
No. 584.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE

MAYEUR'S DISPLAY

of Useful Household Goods?

Address:—

WORCESTER STREET, near CHURCH ST.

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.

MRS DAVIS, 43, EVANS STREET,

Essington and Holly Bank Coal.

Lowest Price for Cash. . . .

WOLVERHAMPTON LABOUR PARTY.

**A
GRAND WHIST DRIVE**

Will be held at the

Labour Assembly Rooms,

On Whit-Monday, May 12th,

Commencing at 8 p.m.

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

WORKERS! Buy Your Own Daily Paper:

1d. The Daily Citizen. 1d.

The Champion of Labour.

Printed for the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour
Council by the National Labour Press, at 30, Black-
friars Street, Manchester, and Published by C. W.
Hull at 35, Queen Square, Wolverhampton.

Noted for
PURITY, ::
BRILLIANCE,
QUALITY

FRANK MYATT'S ALES

On DRAUGHT
and