

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

VOL. 1. No. 5. SEPTEMBER, 1913.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 17,000.

[POST FREE, ONE SHILLING PER ANNUM.]

After Visiting the Park

CALL AT THE

STRAND PICTURE PALACE,
WHITMORE REANS.

Continuous from 7 to 10-45.

MATINEES, MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, SATURDAYS **3 p.m.**

VISIT THE

COLISEUM
DUDLEY ROAD
For EXCLUSIVE PICTURES.

EVERYTHING UP-TO-DATE.

CONTINUOUS from 7 to 10-45.

MATINEES: MONDAYS, THURSDAYS, 5 p.m.
SATURDAYS, 2-30 p.m.

I.L.P. ROOMS.

OVER COLLINS' BOOT SHOP

DUDLEY STREET.

WHIST DRIVES commence

Saturday, Sept. 6th, 8 p.m.

KUM IN KROWDS. Good evening's amusement.

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.

O. 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.

85, QUEEN SQUARE, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Wolverhampton Branch National Union

Boot and Shoe Operatives.

WANTED

All Boot Operatives of both sexes, likewise Boot
Repairers, to join above-named Union.

MEMBERSHIP, 41,440.

FUNDS, £184,841 18s.

Full particulars from H. Moreton, 129, North Street

C. Harper, 234, Waterloo Road

**Amalgamated and General Union Societies of
Carpenters and Joiners.**

Branch Meetings held on Saturday evenings as follows:

No. 1 Branch, Town Hall Hotel.

No. 2 .. Labour Assembly Rooms.

General Union: Hand and Bottle, Victoria Street.

FAIR SHOP LIST ISSUED.

A WORD TO THE WORKERS:

Do your Insurance with the

PLANET

which caters for

**LIFE, FIRE, GLASS,
THIRD PARTY, Etc.**

Best Terms and Quick Settlement
of Claims.

DISTRICT AGENTS:

H. J. PAYNE, 23, Manby Street,

A. FLAYELL, 10, Hargreaves Street

Support your own Class.

NEWMARKET HOTEL,

CLEVELAND ROAD.

LARGE CLUB ROOM Open for Meetings, Whist Drives
Suppers and Parties.

Banks' Noted Ales and Stouts.

HORACE THORPE, Proprietor.

Finest Quality English Meat, Poultry, and Rabbits
At 19, VICARAGE ROAD.

READ "THE DAILY CITIZEN."

STRIKES IN GOOD TRADE.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THEIR CAUSE AND THE REMEDY

By A. BODEN.

The extensive strike in the Black Country, affecting 30,000 people, has now, happily, been settled. It was remarkable by reason of one outstanding feature. The men and women workers involved were those of the lowest-paid class, working among real bad conditions. That part of our country has long been known in Trade Union circles as a weak and almost helpless one for the acceptance of Trade Union principles.

The sudden and spontaneous outburst of the strikers, revolting at their miserable wages and sordid lives, furnishes an amazing object lesson to the thoughtful mind, and should provide some thoughtful reflections to us all.

For it was a revolt of the disorganised and the weak. A revolt that had no agitators, no accumulated strike funds; it was a long, pent-up torrent of denied human wants and requirements, which at last broke through the dam of bastard political economy, of statistics and the make believe of the politician and social reformer, and rushed forth in a primitive manner, demanding some real improvement and widening of its human life.

Following close upon its heels we had the strike of agricultural labourers in Lancashire.

Of all classes of workers in our community, this surely is the last to expect to adopt such a weapon as the strike. Have they not been made the butt of jokes for a generation? The yokel, the clodhopper, has figured as the vaulting horse for nimble wits.

Suddenly this public, which has seen in the farm labourer an object of pity, and a subject on which to practise its wit, finds with amazement, that the yokel is primarily a man. Furthermore, that he has taken some notice of the busy world outside his immediate sphere. And at last Hodge has actually downed tools and faced the Czars of the country side, and made demands.

These are not the only strikes of the last few weeks. Dock workers, municipal employees, gas workers, and many other departments of labour have had to resort to drastic means to better their conditions.

Strikes and Rumours of Strikes.

We find that there are strikes and rumours of strikes in the best organised trades, and also amongst what may be termed permanent workers in municipal service. We also find the strike fever virulent amongst the entirely disorganised, low-paid, bottom-dog worker, the Black Country iron worker, and the Lancashire agricultural labourer.

So extensive a range must have some deeper cause than may be apparent at a casual glance. The farm worker would look on the dock worker's wage as quite munificent. The iron worker at 18s. per week would be apt to consider the municipal employee at 25s. per week as having a good wage.

Yet all of them strike! What for? The plain answer here is the true one, and the simple answer contains a wealth of truth and profundity. They have all struck for something better. "Of course!" you may say, "They always do." True, but these strikes, at this time, are important, not for what the men get, but for what they signify. Yet they are but symptoms. Have you studied the symptoms and tried to diagnose the cause?

It will be immediately noticed that such a volume of dispute is occurring

right in the midst of a period of abounding trade increases. Mr. Lloyd George informs us we have had the greatest boom of trade this country has probably ever seen. And "it is not over by any means."

Yet we are having continually increasing and active breaking out of disputes. Ominous rumours are in the air as to far larger trade disputes in front of us. All around we see negotiations, arbitrations, temporary settlements, which at any time may break down, and involve us in a real first-class determined struggle between federated ranks of varying classes of labour and co-ordinated capital.

We have for long been accustomed to wage misery in times of bad trade, and we have grown so callous as to regard it as a normal accompaniment of such times. But now we have Labour militant, active, the membership of Trade Unions increasing by leaps and bounds, in a time of commercial prosperity.

The Spirit of Revolt.

We have the spirit of revolt finding expression in the lowest class, and in isolated trades. By an impulse clearly to be seen, Labour of all kinds is concentrating itself, gathering together in a common feeling.

With full employment, in many places regular overtime being worked, it has been thought the working classes, sharing in the country's prosperity to the extent of "more work," would have shown a spirit of gratitude, or at least of pacification. To the surprise of such superficial observers, the period of more steady employment and the consequent receipt of more regular wages, has only resulted in the workers becoming restless and making higher claims on capital—and on society.

The very fact that the worker has a little added security in his employment, has brought into being a spirit of independence. That independence has given rise to desire and aims which are crushed out of the man wholly dependent on others for work and wages.

Again, the worker, by bitter experience, is discovering that while wages may rise in money value, the prices of commodities he has to purchase rise still more, and therefore his last lot is worse than his former one. Out of the trade boom he has got more and harder work, and less purchasing value in his money when earned.

A Divine Ambition.

He has also been reading and thinking and learning. There is a vague feeling that all the best in life should not be diverted from him. The low-paid man clamours for bread, for the raw materials to base a human life. The better-paid man asks for bread and roses. For some of the leisure and beauty of life. For some of the culture and art, which, added to the raw materials, shall perfect and round off life into a harmonious whole of grace and colour and joy and sweetness.

Against this swelling tide of divinely-natural human desire and ambition, Capitalism, greed, selfishness, has raised a bulwark of privilege and possession. Interlaced with it a cunningly-devised system of legality, supported by political parties of make believe.

The tide rises higher and ever higher. Society regards the position with indifference. Are we to wait until the flood of pent-up, denied human attributes shall break through the man-made barrier, spreading devastation in its wake? Or shall we learn and understand, and guide down the volume of the humanities

(Continued on next page.)

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

Etc., all made by

TRADE UNION LABOUR.

BLUE JACKETS or OVERALLS,

2/6, 2/11, 3/6.

BLUE OVERALLS with Bib and Brace,

2/6, 2/11, 3/6.

BROWN OVERALLS with Bib and Brace 2/6.

44 VICTORIA ST.

Between Skinner St. and Salop St.

"CO-OPERATION does not cause revolution, but it works by EVOLUTION. It does not destroy anything that it does not replace with something better. It is a move in which all who take part are benefited."

This very ably sums up our Co-operative Movement in this town and district. As regards the practicability of the latter portion, the

**WOLVERHAMPTON
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY,**

for the three months ended June 3rd, 1913, distributed the sum of

£1,533 amongst its 3,000 members in Dividends,

in sums ranging from 5s. to 50s., for which not a halfpenny was paid beyond ordinary necessities of life. In a non-co-operative concern this sum would have gone into the pocket of some individual running the concern.

Then again all Employees of the Society are paid full Trade Union Wages, and every care is exercised in selling no goods but what are produced under fair and proper conditions.

We only appeal to you to join from the standpoint of your own interests.

Join a movement that you have the power to control and share in all benefits.

If in doubt on any point apply,

THE SECRETARY,

**Wolverhampton Co-operative Society,
STAFFORD STREET,**

or any Branch.

THE
BEST TAE
IS
BARRINGTON

GOOD NEWS FOR ETTINGHALL
AND PRIESTFIELD.

A DRY STORE
To be opened early in September at
106, JOHN STREET

BY

LOWE Ltd.,

**CASH CHEMISTS AND DRUG STORE
PROPRIETORS.**

Wolverhampton Labour Party.

A MASS MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

Sunday Afternoon, September 14th,
In the **EMPIRE THEATRE,**

SPEAKER:

Mr. G. J. WARDLE, M.P.

(National Union of Railwaymen).

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.

Collection.

EMPIRE at 3 p.m.,
Sunday, September 28th**Mr. F. W. JOWETT, M.P.**

(WEST BRADFORD).

Supported by Mr. A. G. WALKDEN.

COME AND HEAR THE LABOUR ORATOR.

(Continued from previous page.)

through a series of well-designed human outlets?

This is what the Labour man and Socialist work for. There must come the great release from deadly pressure. We seek to accomplish that deliverance in an orderly, regulated fashion, that shall spread the waters of life over arid spaces of human effort.

Is it an ignoble ideal? Is it a waste of effort?

The change has to come. Will you be on our side, or will you wait till the torrent bursts forth in a clash and welter of passion and hate.

PICCADILLY AND THE PEER.**A Statesman's Apologia.**

'Tis true there's a scandal in gay Piccadilly,
Where deeds have been done that were really not nice,
But surely no right-thinking Briton's so silly
To credit the rumour that Peers practise vice?
Keir Hardie's keen questions I call persecution,
His language I feel I must sternly rebuke;
To reveal rich men's sins would raise revolution;
How dare he suggest I should summon a Duke!
'Tis sinful and shameful to hint at suppression,
To charge me with hiding an unpleasant truth;
'Tis wicked to cover a Peer with derision
By asking the name of a blue-blooded youth.
The police, I repeat, have discharged ev'ry duty,
Wrong-doers have felt the long arm of the law;
No quarter was given to sex or to beauty—
That knaves could escape, ev'ry lawyer foresaw.
What more could we do than has been done already?
The brothel is closed, it's vile keeper in jail;
Her victims are scatter'd to starve in their misery,
Mrs. Grundy's contented—let mercy prevail.
When working men sin it is right to condemn them,
And put them in prison to share it's disgrace,
But when lordlings stumble, wise statesmen forgive them—
Light-hearted young noblemen WILL go the pace!

T. W. MERCER.

"Your daughter shows some free movements in her graceful dancing."
"Free, indeed! Why, I paid cash for every one of 'em!"

STAR TOOL FUND.**A GENEROUS REPOSE TO TRADES COUNCIL APPEAL.****DETAILED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**

It will be recollected that following the disastrous fire at the Star Motor Works, Wolverhampton, a public appeal was made by the Secretary of the Trades Council (H. Bagley) through the Press, and later by circular, on behalf of the men who had unfortunately lost their tools. The total value of the tools lost was estimated at £1,000, and the uninsured portion was considerable. The following list will show how generous was the response, the total of £258 1s. 8d. being something of a record with any fund connected with the Trades Council. The following is the full subscription list:—

	£	s.	d.
Star Engineering Co., Ltd.	100	0	0
Mr. E. Lisle	25	0	0
Ald. Levi Johnson, J.P.	10	0	0
Mr. F. J. Steward	10	0	0
Mr. J. Lisle	10	0	0
Mr. W. W. King	2	0	0
Mr. E. Graham	3	0	0
Mr. F. Gregory	1	1	0
Mr. T. Haynes	0	10	0
Mrs. Richards	0	10	6
Star Staff and Workmen	8	11	9
Mr. G. H. Bradford	2	0	0
Star Cycle Staff and Workmen	1	5	9
Briton Motor Co., Ltd.	10	10	0
Mr. E. Lisle, Junior	5	5	0
Mr. J. Partridge	0	10	0
Mr. W. J. Lawrence	0	10	0
Mr. V. A. Calcutt	0	10	0
Briton Staff and Workmen	1	11	9
A. Bird, Esq., M.P.	10	0	0
Messrs. Burton, Griffiths, and Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. Mander Brothers	5	0	0
Messrs. J. B. and A. Annan	2	2	0
Alderman Richards	0	10	0
Presto Gear Case and Components Co., Ltd. (Staff and Workmen)	0	16	2
Mitre Hotel (per Mr. Lockett)	0	6	8
Mr. A. Lamsdale	0	2	6
Tramway Depot (per Mr. Coleman)	0	3	0
Orme Evans (Gt. Brickkiln-street)	0	14	0
Railway Clerks' Association (per Mr. A. G. Walkden)	2	2	0
A Friend	0	5	0
Baker's Boot Factory (per Mr. Preston)	0	18	1
Messrs. Sankey and Sons	2	2	0
Rev. Father Darmody	0	10	0
Mr. Alf. Hughes's Works (per Mr. Siddons)	0	7	1
J. Marston, Ltd.	5	0	0
Colonel McBean	1	1	0
Leather Cloth Co., London	0	10	0
Mr. Cahill, Heath Town	0	10	6
Mr. Jas. Beattie	0	10	0
Per J. Stanford, Moore-street	0	7	9
Alderman Craddock	0	10	6
Alderman Gibbons	0	5	0
Colonel Waterhouse	0	5	0
Alderman Plant	1	0	0
Owen and Son, Liverpool	1	1	0
Plumbers' Society (per Mr. Whitaker)	0	10	6
Halfway House Bowling Green (per Mr. J. Steward)	1	5	3
Nippon Works (per W. H. Hayton)	0	15	0
Sheet No. 218	0	0	6
Wolseley Tool Co.	0	9	9
His Worship the Mayor (Councillor T. W. Dickinson)	0	10	0
Mr. Snow (Hairdressers' Association)	0	3	0
Mr. Snow (Hairdressers' Association)	0	1	2
Working Men's Club	0	0	9
Messrs. Cox and Tustin	0	16	0
Councillor W. Moseley	0	10	6
Whitehead's (King-street)	0	5	0
Meynell's (per Mr. G. Davies)	1	3	8
Councillor A. Hughes	1	0	0
Sunbeam Motor Co.	5	0	0
Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss (per A. Flavell)	0	11	4
British Queen Inn	0	1	6
Mander Bros. (per Mr. Tiller)	0	8	9
Rayleigh-road Stores (per Mr. J. Hickin)	1	5	3
Per F. Taylor	0	8	0
Briton, Walsall-street (per Mr. W. Young)	0	13	9
Fleming, Lowder, and Co. (per W. Bowen)	0	11	6
Ring o' Bells Inn	0	2	0
Sankey's, Hadley (per W. B. Young)	2	15	0
Hill's Motor Fittings, Ltd. (per J. Clinton)	0	13	0
Willcock's (per J. Price)	0	3	9
Sunbeam Works (per T. Morgan)	2	10	0
Lewis Berger, Ltd.	1	1	0
Theo. Hill's Summer House	0	2	0
Villiers Arms	0	2	0
Vine Inn	0	11	0
George Inn	0	4	9
Queen-street Conservative Club	0	2	6
Mr. Shutt	0	1	0
The Accuracy Works	0	14	0
Steven's (Erecting Shop) Engineering Co.	0	11	0
North-road Club	0	2	0
Grapes Inn, Chapel-ash	0	2	0
The Wrexham Inn	0	6	9
G. Hill, Rose and Crown	0	3	6
Clyno Engineering Works	1	9	8

	£	s.	d.
Tinsmiths' Shop, 13 recipients...	4	17	9
Trimmers' " 17 " ...	21	1	6
Bodymakers' " 23 " ...	111	16	6
Finishers " 22 " ...	104	15	6
Vicemen and Smiths 9 " ...	5	5	3
Painters 14 " ...	5	3	8
Other Departments 4 " ...	1	6	0
102	£254	6	2

The claims took a wide range, and allowances ranged from 1s. 6d. to £11 17s. 6d., scarcely two sums being similar. A division was struck at 60 per cent. of the net loss and the incoming of one or two belated donations allowed for the expenses to be met and a small balance over. The Works Committee, which had been appointed to co-operate with the president and secretary of the Trades Council, recommended that the balance be placed to the funds of the Sick and Divi. Club connected with the works, or The South Staffs. General Hospital.

Below will be found a summary of the accounts:—

STAR WORKS TOOLS FUND: TRADES COUNCIL APPEAL.	
SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS.	
Receipts.	£ s. d.
By Donations	258 1 8
	£258 1 8
Expenditure.	£ s. d.
By Claims Allocated	254 6 2
" Other Expenses (Printing, Typing, and Postage)	2 8 6
	256 14 8
Balance in hand	1 7 0
	£258 1 8

We have examined the various vouchers (receipts and claims allowed) and hereby certify the same to be correct.

Signed—

W. A. SHINGLER,
J. E. BAILEY,
Auditors.
W. W. KING,
Treasurer.
J. WHITTAKER, J.P.,
President.
H. BAGLEY,
Secretary.

August 12, 1913.

The extreme kindness of the secretary of the Star Engineering Co. (Mr. W. W. King), who acted as treasurer, was appreciated by the Trades Council, and the thanks of the workmen was heartily accorded both to him and the members of the firm, whose contributions were regarded as handsome.

The idea of giving credit notes to recipients instead of the actual money was also much appreciated, as it at once ensured the money being spent alone on tools.

Since the accounts were audited one subscription has been received (Clyno Engineering Works, £1 9s. 8d.), and one additional claim allowed (6s.). The whole will again be gone through by the auditors and treasurer and the balance disbursed as the committee decide.

H. BAGLEY,
Secretary.

ROBBERY OF MANHOOD.

By Will Crooks, M.P.

See the worker as we know him. A brave and manly man, he was patted on the back. Then he was put off, because there was no more profit in him; his services were no longer required. The wealth that he has created can still be enjoyed, but not by him or his wife and family. He may go and beg.

He is manly and independent in October. He comes and asks, "Can you give me a job? I must have a job soon."

You say, "I don't know of a job."

He comes again in November, "Have you heard of a job?"

"No."

He comes again in December, "Have you heard of a job yet?"

"No."

He says, "You are a Member of Parliament; you are one of those fellows who say, 'Vote for me and you will never want any more.' We have heard all that before."

You meet him in January, and ask him whether he has got a job.

His reply is, "No. I can't get a job, and I don't want one."

What do you think of it? Our neglect has

QUEENIE GERALD.**Damning Exposure of the Piccadilly Flat Case.**

By J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.

Cheers from both sides of the House greeted the Home Secretary's declaration that he could do nothing more in the Piccadilly flat scandal. The gravest part of the scandal at the moment is his attempt to prevent any further investigation.

It was evident from the outset of his speech that he knew nothing about the facts of the case, and that his brief had been badly prepared. When I stated that the real name of the woman had been mentioned in court, he denied that until I quoted the *Times* report in support of my statement. Subsequently he sought to deny that Mr. Travers Humphreys, the prosecuting counsel for the police, had said he had documentary evidence of the fact that the woman had also been guilty of procreation. I then read Mr. Humphreys' own words as reported in the *Times* as follows:

Letters found on the premises made it clear that the accused (Queenie Gerald) was carrying on the business of a procurer. He sought to correct this by saying that the *Times* report was mistaken, and I then read from the *Daily Telegraph* as follows:

There were a large number of letters, continued counsel, which made it quite clear that, apart from the prisoner's earnings herself, and apart from what she received through the girls, she was carrying on the trade of a procurer.

Mr. McKenna, determined not to be convinced, then fell back on the much fuller report of the case contained in the *News of the World*, a Sunday paper, which, so he said, did not contain any reference to these letters, whereupon I read from the *News of the World* report as follows:

Mr. Travers Humphreys: A number of letters were seized which made it quite clear that, apart from prisoner's earnings, and apart from the three girls, she had been carrying on the trade of a procurer. There was a copy of a letter which the woman herself had written which made it abundantly clear that she was guilty of procreation.

It is but fair to Mr. McKenna to say that he subsequently showed me the copy of the *News of the World* report which he had been using, and the passage which I read was not there. It was probably a different edition of the paper from the one which I had, and from which this part of Mr. Travers Humphreys' statement had been left out. Why? It is for the editor of that paper to explain.

In the end Mr. McKenna gained the cheers of the House, and especially of his Liberal colleagues, by declaring that he would not be a party to taking proceedings which might give pain to innocent persons. Not a care nor a thought, apparently, for the pain of the parents or other relatives of the poor child victims of lust, two of whom are about to become mothers! These young creatures of school age (they were both under 17) were shop girls. It would be interesting to know where and by whom employed, and what were their wages. Overworked probably, certainly underpaid, they get into the clutches of Queenie Gerald. They were told how they could earn £5 in one night. They had to subject their naked bodies to practices so cruel, foul, and disgusting that they may not even be named in print.

They, poor things, are undergoing punishment enough, God knows. The woman is in prison. But the rich ghouls of whom she was the agent, and the children, who were the victims of their lust, they alone are shielded and protected from public exposure.

Mr. Travers Humphreys has stated that there are letters from men showing that the woman known as "Queenie Gerald" was guilty of procreation; he also stated that he had a letter of hers showing the same thing.

Mr. McKenna denied both statements. Who is being shielded? If the woman is prosecuted for procreation, the names of those for whom she acted will come out. Why cannot this be done?

Let the nation speak out and have all the facts dragged into the light of day.

Mr. Keir Hardie has written a strongly-worded pamphlet on the Queenie Gerald Scandal. It can be obtained from the National Labour Press, 1d.

HUMAN NATURE AGAIN.

If the Socialist propagandist informed the average man that he (the average man) was mean and selfish and incapable of a noble action, or of living with decent, honest, generous people, he would feel insulted, and rightly so. But that is exactly what he means when he tells the Socialist propagandist that human nature being what it is, Socialism is impossible. If when he makes that statement he is excepting himself and referring to others, it is he who is ungenerous and incapable of a noble conception of his fellow men, and he himself is the obstacle in the way of a purer social order. Human nature is all right when it has a chance.

TO THE UNCONVERTED.

Have you ever heard anti-Socialists saying that Socialists, if given power, would encourage lawlessness and anarchy? Have you stayed long enough to hear them say under Socialism you will suffer from a surfeit of officialism and red

ANOTHER CAMPAIGN.

TO FURTHER THE CAUSE IN WOLVERHAMPTON.

A MOMENTOUS WEEK.

Our readers will not have forgotten the great Trade Unionist revival which was held in Wolverhampton last May. Meetings were held all over the town and such was the interest taken in the proceedings that over one thousand workers were induced to see the necessity for combination, and were prevailed upon to join the respective Trade Unions. That was indeed a remarkable achievement. And the other remarkable feature was the enthusiasm engendered among the Trade Union workers. They willingly gave up their time—many of them their dinner-hours—to encourage the various speakers, and the Trades Council have recognised that much of the success of the "week" was due to these helpers—men who up to that time had done very little work of the sort.

Coincident with that Trade Union week momentous events were shaping. It was in the Labour Assembly Rooms just at that time that the great agitation for the twenty-three shillings minimum for unskilled labourers was commenced.

COUNCILLOR BEARD.
G. GEOBY.
MISS JULIA VARLEY.
W. ADAMSON.
W. FLAVELL.
E. WILLIAMS.

We again repeat the call to Trade Unionists to rally on this occasion as they did on the last, and make an even greater success of the forthcoming campaign than was the case with the last.

A Word with the Non-Unionist.

To the worker who has not yet made up his mind that his place is in the ranks of Trade Unionism, the following may find food for reflection.

The uncertain tenure upon which working people hold their situations, by means of which they earn a living for themselves and their families, is a fact burnt in upon our understanding by daily experience.

A Hundred Causes—

such as bad trade, death or failure of

IT'S an old saying that "The mill cannot grind with the water that has passed"—or, in other words, we cannot bring back lost opportunities; and it's no use, when bad times come, WISHING we had stood loyal to our Trade Union, and thus maintained our title to its much-needed help. Join NOW and keep your membership up.

That agitation grew so rapidly that it was not long before there were, at a low estimate, 30,000 men on strike. The history of that fight is too recent to need repeating. It was a vigorous fight and a successful fight. It had its beginnings in a comparatively small strike at the works of Messrs. Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss, Monmore Green, during the Trade Union week, and practically all the speakers in that campaign, with Mr. Walkden at their head, threw their weight into the fight, with the result that a victory was recorded. Practically all the workers concerned joined up to the Workers' Union.

The Second Campaign.

During the week, September 8th and 14th, this movement will be repeated, with the absence, it is hoped, of the strikes which characterised the last, for it is preferred that the men should have the benefit of organisation before they down tools, rather than, as was the case last time that they should be thrown on their own resources with no funds at the back of them.

Many speakers are booked, some of whom were with us last time, notably Boden, of the railway clerks, of whom we reproduce a photograph, and Ryder of the Engineers. Friend Walkden will, of course, spend the week with us and the week will terminate with a mass meeting on September 14th, with Mr. G. J. Wardle, of the National Union of Railwaymen, as chief speaker, with Walkden in the chair. Another notable visitor will be Mr. T. F. Richards, ex-M.P. for West Wolverhampton. The following are among the speakers booked:—

- J. ELVIN (Clerks' Union).
- W. DODSON (Steel Smelters).
- A. BODEN (Railway Clerks, Chesterfield).
- R. MOFFATT (N.U.R.).
- J. H. SPILLER (Hotel and Club Waiters).
- T. F. RICHARDS.
- COUNCILLOR SIMPSON.
- COUNCILLOR GREGORY.
- W. W. SAUNDERS (Carpenters).
- G. BELL (Nottingham).
- H. SPILLER.
- W. MOSSES (U. Patternmakers Gen. Sec.).
- W. LOCKETT (Shop Assistants).
- J. FIRTH (Gas Workers' Secretary).
- H. BRABHAM (Gas Workers' Organiser).
- W. J. WENTWORTH (Wood Machinists).
- G. RYDER (Engineers).
- G. WILKINSON (Toolmakers).
- A. E. ELLERY (Workers' Union).

employer, ill-will of those in position, accident to workpeople themselves, etc., etc.—are continually in operation, depriving them of that employment, the loss of which means so much of distress to those dependent upon them. Even when we are at work the knowledge of the uncertainty of its continuance tends to take out of our lives much of the pleasure we should otherwise enjoy.

How to Minimise it.

Experience has proved that there is only one way. That is, by acting upon the old proverb—that "God helps those who help themselves"—and forming Associations that shall not only help us in time of misfortune, but by the very fact of their existence help to strengthen our position in the workshop, enabling us to work with a better heart because of the knowledge that we have that we do not stand alone, but have a host of friends ready and willing to help should we require it.

Trade Union Benefits

are of a varied and far-reaching character. To those unemployed, whether from ordinary causes, bodily illness, or because old age has deprived them of their strength and skill, they take the form of weekly payments sufficient in amount to enable them to tide over till re-employed. In case the member's lack of employment is owing to an attempt on the part of capital to take an unfair advantage of him, a larger weekly sum is paid. Should the fluctuations of trade compel the member to seek work in a distant town, the Society often finds the means for him to do so. If disabled by an accident, a lump sum is paid him, so that he may be able to start in some fresh occupation. Should he need the aid of the law, his legal expenses are paid, and when death comes the Society provides those he has left behind with the help they so sorely need.

Be Practical.

Don't go on through life merely thinking how nice it would be if things were different; *do something*—join a Trade Union and make it the medium of your endeavour to leave the world better than you found it. R. M.

TRADE UNION AND LABOUR MISSION WEEK.

SERIES OF SPECIAL OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th.

- 10 p.m.—Near E. C. C. Works, Bushbury. Speaker: Geo. Ryder (A.S.E.). Chairman: A. Boden (R.C.A.).
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Stafford-road Works. Speaker: A. E. Ellery (Workers' Union). Chairman: Coun. W. Sharrocks (Boilermakers' Union).
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Star Motor Works, Frederick-street. Speaker: W. Dodgson (Steel Smelters and Iron Plate Workers). Chairman: C. Harper (Boot and Shoe Operatives' Union).
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Rees Roturbo Works, Wednesfield-road. Speaker: R. Moffatt (N.U.R.). Chairman: G. Lawley (Education Committee).
- 7.0 p.m.—Bilston, Oatmeal-square. Speakers: W. Dodgson (Steel Smelters'), G. Groby (Workers' Union). Chairman: J. Thomas.
- 7.30 p.m.—Snow Hill, Wolverhampton. Speakers: Geo. Ryder (A.S.E.), R. Moffatt (N.U.R.), Chairman: J. Dideridge (A.S.E.).
- 7.30 p.m.—Whitmore Reans, Leicester-square. Speakers: A. Boden (R.C.A.), J. Firth (National Union of Gasworkers), A. Bent (N.U.R.). Chairman: C. Palmer (A.S.E.).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th.

- 1.30 p.m.—Near Sankey's Works, Bankfields, Bradley. Speaker: A. E. Ellery (Workers' Union). Chairman: E. Lawley (I.L.P.).
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Sankey's Works, Albert-street, Bilston. Speaker: W. Dodgson (Steel Smelters). Chairman: J. Uzzell (N.U.R.).
- 1.30 p.m.—Skinner-street, Wolverhampton. Speakers: H. H. Elvin (N.U.C.), A. Boden (R.C.A.). Chairman: R. Moffatt (N.U.R.).
- 5.30 p.m.—Bilston, Millfields, near Pool. Speaker: W. Dodgson (Steel Smelters'). Chairman: H. J. Payne (Insurance Agents).
- 7.15 p.m.—Monmore Green, near Woodman. Speakers: E. Williams ("Teddy") (Wednesbury Strike Leader), A. Boden (R.C.A.). Chairman: Coun. W. Sharrocks.
- 7.15 p.m.—Heath Town, near Star Hotel, Railway-street. Speakers: Coun. H. Simpson (Birmingham, National Gasworkers), R. Moffatt (N.U.R.). Chairman: W. Spruce (Ironfounders).
- 7.30 p.m.—Snow Hill. Speakers: H. H. Elvin (N.U.C.), Miss Julia Varley (Workers' Union). Chairman: E. Edwards (N.U.R.).
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Thompson's Works, Ettingshall. Speaker: W. Dodgson (Steel Smelters). Chairman: Coun. W. Sharrocks.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th.

- 1.30 p.m.—Near Orme Evans' Works, Alexandra-street. Speakers: A. Boden (R.C.A.), G. Wilkinson (Toolmakers' Society). Chairman: Coun. T. Frost (Carpenters and Joiners).
- 1.30 p.m.—Snow Hill. Speakers: R. Moffatt (N.U.R.), W. Mosses (Patternmakers). Chairman: W. Adamson (Workers' Union).
- 6.0 p.m.—Near Wesleyan Chapel, Ladymoor. Speaker: W. Dodgson (Steel Smelters'). J. Geoby (Workers' Union).
- 7.30.—Near Five Ways, Stafford-road. Speakers: R. Moffatt (N.U.R.), A. Boden (R.C.A.), E. Edwards (N.U.R.). Chairman: A. J. Weaver (R.C.A.).
- 7.30 p.m.—Skinner-street. Speakers: Coun. Gregory, (Birmingham, Gasworkers), W. Mosses (Patternmakers), G. Wilkinson (Toolmakers). Chairman: Chas. Smith (Secretary, Tin Plate Workers' Society).
- 7.30 p.m.—Snow Hill. Speakers: G. Ryder (A.S.E.), A. E. Ellery (Workers' Union), W. W. Saunders (Carpenters and Joiners), G. Coad and J. Whiston (Workers' Union, Walsall Strike Leaders). Chairman: Coun. C. Hickin.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th.

- 1.30 p.m.—Culwell Works, Heath Town. Speaker: A. Boden (R.C.A.). Chairman: H. J. Payne (Insurance Agents).
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Griffith's Works, Bilston-road. Speaker: W. Dodgson (Steel Smelters). Chairman: Coun. T. Frost (Carpenters and Joiners).
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Hayward's Works, Willenhall-road. Speaker: R. Moffatt (N.U.R.). Chairman: Coun. W. Sharrocks.
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Baker's and Craddock's Works, Powlett-street. Speaker: Miss Brown (Women's Labour League). Chairman: H. Moreton (Secretary, Boot and Shoe Operatives').
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Bayliss' Works, Cable-street. Speaker: Coun. J. Beard (Birmingham, Workers' Union). Chairman: E. Lawley (I.L.P.).
- 5.30 p.m.—Near Thompson's Boiler Works, Ettingshall. Speakers: W. Adamson (Workers' Union), G. Bell (Iron Moulders). Chairman: C. Harper (Boot and Shoe Operatives' Union).
- 6.30 p.m.—Near Wesleyan Schools, John-street, Ettingshall. Speakers: Coun. J. Beard (Birmingham), R. Moffatt (N.U.R.), G. Bell (Ironmoulders). Chairman: G. Tarratt (Bilston Trades Council).
- 7.0 p.m.—Near Laundry, Sweetman-street. Speakers: Miss Brown (W.L.L.), Mrs. Dideridge (W.L.L.), A. Boden (R.C.A.), Alan Davies (N.U.R.). Chairman: H. Bagley (Secretary, Trades Council).
- 7.30 p.m.—Snow Hill. Speakers: H. Spiller (Restaurant Workers), W. J. Wentworth (General Secretary, Woodcutters), H. Brabham (National Union of Gasworkers), E. Faulkner (I.L.P.). Chairman: Coun. W. Sharrocks.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th.

- 1.30 p.m.—Pool-street, near Marston's Cycle Works. Speaker: G. Ryder (A.S.E.). Chairman: F. Tustin (Typographical).
- 1.30 p.m.—Sunbeam Motor Works, U. Villiers-street. Speakers: W. J. Wentworth (Woodcutters), R. Moffatt (N.U.R.). Chairman: Coun. T. Frost.
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Axle Box, Wednesfield. Speaker: A. E. Ellery (Workers' Union). Chairman: Coun. W. Sharrocks.
- 1.30 p.m.—Near Holcroft's Works, Ettingshall-road. Speaker: W. Banfield (Bakers' Society). Chairman: W. Adamson (Workers' Union).
- 1.30 p.m.—Bridge, Near Millers, Dixon-street. Speaker: A. Boden (R.C.A.). Chairman: H. J. Payne (Insurance Agents).
- 1.30 p.m.—Skinner-street. Speakers: H. Spiller (Restaurant Workers), W. Lockett (Shop Assistants' Union). Chairman: W. J. Wentworth (Woodcutters' Society).
- 1.30 p.m.—Green-lane, Corner Dudley-road. Speakers: Miss Brown (Women's Labour League), H. Brabham (National Union Gasworkers). Chairman: J. Whittaker (Plumbers, President Trades Council).
- 7.30 p.m.—Snow Hill. Speakers: W. Banfield (Bakers), W. Adamson (Workers' Union), H. Spiller (Restaurant Workers), W. J. Wentworth (Woodcutters), Miss Brown (W.L.L.). Chairman: T. Jones, J.P. (Toolmakers).
- 7.30 p.m.—Market Place, Willenhall. Speakers: Coun. Gregory (Birmingham), W. Adamson (Workers' Union), R. Moffatt (N.U.R.), E. Edwards (N.U.R.). Chairman: H. Bagley (Secretary, Trades Council).
- 7.30 p.m.—Wednesfield, near Royal Oak. Speakers: A. Boden (R.C.A.), G. Geoby (Workers' Union), W. Flavell (Workers' Union), H. Phillips (Strike Marchers' Leader), Chairman: J. H. Dale (N.U.R.).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th.

MEETING, MARKET PLACE, 7-30 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

- Miss Brown (Women's Labour League).
- A. G. Walkden (Prospective Labour Candidate)
- G. Ryder (A.S.E.).
- A. Boden (R.C.A.).
- R. Moffatt (N.U.R.).
- H. J. Wentworth (Woodcutters' Society).
- H. Spiller (Restaurant Workers).
- G. Bell (Ironmoulders).
- T. F. Richards (President of Boot and Shoe Operatives' Society).
- Chairman: Councillor W. Sharrocks (Boilermakers' Society).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th.

MASS MEETING IN THE EMPIRE THEATRE.

SPEAKERS:

- G. J. Wardle, M.P., Stockport, (N.U.R.)
- (Editor of the *Railway Review*).
- Miss Julia Varley (Workers' Union).
- A. Boden (R.C.A.).
- R. Moffatt (N.U.R.).

AND OTHER PROMINENT TRADE UNIONISTS.

Chairman: Mr. A. G. Walkden.

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(WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH).
UNIVERSITY TUTORIAL CLASS.

The above class on "Industrial History" will commence this month (September). It is necessary that all members and friends wishing to join the class should send in their names at once.
General Meeting, Technical School, September 10, at 8 p.m.

Hon. Secretary, JOHN SHORE,
15, Fellows St., Blakenhall, Wolverhampton.

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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.

SEPTEMBER, 1913.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The Huddersfield Town Council has decided to adopt the recommendation of its Housing and Town Planning Committee for the erection of 500 houses, and the work is to be proceeded with at once. This example should surely stimulate our own Town Council to adopt similar measures. The need for such a course has been impressed upon them for months past, particularly during the campaign of the Tenants' Defence League against the raising of the rents of working-class houses. It is an open secret that the property-owners have prevented the construction of sufficient new houses to meet the growth of population, and it is patent to everyone that such tactics on the part of unpatriotic vested interests can only be defeated by prompt and public-spirited action on the part of the Town Council.

The urgency of such action has been made still more clear by the illuminating Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1912, which describes in restrained but eloquent terms the evil effects of bad and inadequate housing accommodation. In the section of the report which refers to the steps taken to grapple with the white scourge of consumption, Dr. Malet speaks of "the magnitude and difficulty of the work, especially among the very poor, where the social and housing conditions are so hopeless. . . . The problem is intimately associated with that of the housing of the poor, no personal measure can be of any permanent utility so long as the poor are crowded in small rooms in close surroundings." He then details sample cases of such conditions, and remarks, "Apart from the phthisis, many of the above are cases of overcrowding, and have

the rent for roomier houses, and the endeavour to pay such means limitation of sorely-needed food." The italics are ours. Further on the Medical Officer states that during the year 50 houses were closed, and 38 of these were demolished, and he adds, "I must again express my doubts as to the policy of closing so much poor-class property without making adequate and sufficiently cheap provision for those displaced, who are mostly the very poor. Although overcrowding is just one of those matters alluded to above as not coming readily under the notice of our routine inspection, yet this year, the same as in 1911, we have the heaviest record of such cases. And the work done by the Inspector inquiring into reported cases of phthisis has revealed much overcrowding; and the same Inspector, reporting on houses let in lodgings, finds a serious degree of that most objectionable form of overcrowding, several families occupying one house as furnished apartments." The Chief Sanitary Inspector, referring to the condition of the courts, etc., in Wolverhampton, states, "It is only those whose unpleasant duty it has been for years to have to pass in and out of these hot-beds of disease, ill-health, and immorality, that can properly appreciate all that their ultimate total abolition can mean."

And yet, in face of this deplorable state of affairs in our midst, several so-called Liberals, instead of earnestly endeavouring to set on foot the necessary remedial measures urged upon them by the Tenants' Defence League, have worked themselves into a temper with our prospective Labour candidate for having spoken strongly upon the terrible evils of overcrowding in Wolverhampton, and the direct responsibility of the Town Council for their continuance. Some of the gentlemen in question have recently behaved in a manner that has caused the man in the street to remark, with a knowing twinkle in his eye, "The cap seems to fit, anyhow."

TRADES COUNCIL TOPICS.

The feature of the last Trades Council meeting was the excellent and poignant address by the Council's co-opted representative on the Education Authority (Mr. Geo. Lawley). A more comprehensive résumé of the work of that body it would be difficult to imagine. The special attention of the delegates was directed to the "arrangement" between the Town Council and the Grammar School Governors.

The president and secretary were subjected to much criticism regarding their action re the Star Tool Fund Appeal, but ultimately it was endorsed unanimously. It might be stated that the result of the appeal greatly exceeded all anticipations, a sum of £258 being subscribed in less than fourteen days. In another part of this issue will be found a full list of contributors and a summary of the balance sheet.

Two volumes on the "Law Relating to Trade Unions" have been purchased for the use of the Council, and will be kept at headquarters. It is essential that secretaries should be alive to the alterations that have recently taken place in the strictures placed upon unions.

The attention of the Council will have to be concentrated on the provision of a public hall, the sale of the Agricultural Hall having deprived the town of the last of the suitable buildings for large meeting purposes. Mr. Medley (Carpenters' Society) strongly urged the Labour Councillors to take the matter up. More will be heard of it anon.

The Trades Council decided to become affiliated with the Railway Nationalisation Society, and their approval of the aims of the National Anti-Conscription League was agreed to.

A communication from the Insurance Tax Resisters' Defence Association, containing several drastic recommendations and resolutions, was considered and it was decided to invite a speaker from the Association to debate the questions raised.

Heartly congratulations and good wishes to Mr. J. Icke (Board of Guardians) on his approaching marriage. May he long enjoy the comforts that naturally ensue is the wish of the
E. C.

"I want some sort of present for a young lady."
"Yes, sir. Sweetheart or sister?"
"Er—why, she hasn't said which she will be yet!"
"What's the argument in there?"

IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS.

By Our TELEPHONE OPERATOR.

II.—ALDERMAN GIBBONS.

WOLVERHAMPTON WORKER: Hello, Mr. Gibbons, that you?
Ald. GIBBONS: Yes, who is that please?
W. W.: The Labour monthly.
Ald. G.: Oh! What do you want?
W. W.: Just to say that you have libelled our old town.
Ald. G. (excited): Eh! What's that?
W. W.: In your remarks at the Council just before the holidays.
Ald. G.: Who? How?
W. W.: Well, you said "that you would like to know whether the people in the different houses were clean; whether they drank, or whether they neglected their families. It was all very well to condemn houses, but a good many people wanted to condemn themselves."
Ald. G.: Yes! What of that?
W. W.: Don't you think that they are sufficiently condemned by being compelled to live in such places.
Ald. G.: Oh! I don't know.
W. W.: Now look here! Don't shirk facts, our Mayor stated that there are at least 500 insanitary dwellings that ought to come down that are occupied by these people you are condemning.
Ald. G.: Who's condemning?
W. W.: You, by your remarks. Further, if you had had the misfortune to work and live under such conditions as they, don't you think you would be tempted to drink to forget a little of the misery you endure?
Ald. G.: Well, but you know—
W. W.: Never mind what I know. The people in those houses are not at all bad, and given decent conditions, they would be as respectable citizens as any town could boast of—Hello!—and your class are to blame.
Ald. G.: Well, I never—
W. W.: It was not drink that built the slums, it was private ownership which put as many houses on an acre as they could crowd, and lived out of the profits. And small wages force the people to live in such places while the landlord sits on the Council and protects his property.
Ald. G.: Yes, yes! but are the people clean?
W. W.: Dear me! There's a question for an alderman to ask! You surely can't expect cleanliness in a slum, where there's no bathroom, no accommodation, and often lack of sunlight and bad air?
Ald. G.: Yes! I admit they are not ideal conditions.
W. W.: Far from it sir, and if you took a commonsense view—
Ald. G. (heatedly): I do take a commonsense view.
W. W.: Not so fast, or you would not have said what you did, and you would have taken Dr. Malet's advice; and also the Labour men's when they have asked for the Housing Act to be put in operation. Hello!
Ald. G.: Hello!
W. W.: You know that our Town Council is composed of landlords, slum owners, jerry builders, publicans and pawnbrokers, and successful business men.
Ald. G.: Well, what's that to do with it?
W. W.: A good deal. It is these men who have delayed the people from their rights by their selfish policy of private ownership instead of the public welfare.
Ald. G.: Steady, sir.
W. W.: I am steady. But you know that the people have lived in these unhealthy conditions for ages, conditions none of these successful gentlemen would tolerate, and we believe in action, and desire better conditions for the town than you gentlemen are prepared to give, and we of the Labour Party demand Better Houses at once for the people.
Ald. G.: It is impossible.
W. W.: Nothing is impossible, put the Housing and Town Planning Act in operation at once; build decent houses with baths, etc.; save the children, improve the physique, and improve the town.
Ald. G.: Where's the money to come from?
W. W.: The same place as the money that bought the trams; or accumulate the profits from the municipal undertakings.
Ald. G.: Impossible, sir, look at the rates?
W. W.: Yes, look at them. That is proof sufficient that the successful business men have bungled our town's affairs by such wasteful methods as scrapping £10,000 of tram track down Whitmore Reans. Hello!
Ald. G.: Hello!
W. W.: Remember, we demand better houses for the workers; we deny that the workers are unclean; they do not neglect their families; they do not drink excessively; and we assert that your remarks are most unjustifiable, and that the workers can only achieve these things for themselves when they cease sending the landlord to represent them.
Ald. G.: Fiddlesticks!
W. W.: And if you resigned your coward's castle of Alderman and contested a seat on the strength of your words the working class would be sufficiently awake to see you had the reward

LOCAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By "THE CHIEL."

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

—BURNS.

The Situation in the West.

Since the last issue the situation in Wolverhampton West has undergone a change, and it now looks as though Walkden will have a straight fight. There are, I have no doubt, many friends in the movement who look upon this as a favourable sign, and possibly will be inclined to relax their efforts. I would remind all that even though there may be a straight fight between Tory and Labour, that does not guarantee Walkden the seat. Other difficulties may arise which will require careful handling. Again, it must be remembered that the sitting member has a strong organisation in the division; that the forces of retrogression are strong, and it behoves every Labour man to put his best into the work. Meanwhile I must congratulate the Alderman on his action. To many of us who have known him for some time the fact has been apparent that his health has been a serious consideration, and that the strain of a three-cornered contest might possibly have disastrous effects. Much as I dislike Mr. Lewis's politics, this does not affect my admiration for him personally, and I should have been very sorry to see him not sufficiently firm to refuse to continue to respond to the manipulations of the wire pullers.

Sold Again!

I have been constrained on several occasions to refer to our Mean Town Council. After a lot of agitation our Labour Councillors were successful in impressing upon the Council the reasonableness of their proposals for a minimum wage; but the Council would not do such an undignified thing as to adopt a suggestion of a Labour Man. They consented to a shilling less—and they saved their dignity! This was accepted, and everyone thought the trouble was ended. But, lo and behold, like Pharaoh of old they have again hardened their hearts, and now there are strong complaints that the Corporation are not carrying out their contracts. It will be remembered that the rate fixed for the men employed at the Barnhurst Farm was 21s. per week, it being understood that extra privileges in the way of harvest money, free garden ground, straw, coal haulage, etc., would make up the difference, and bring their wages up to 24s. It now appears, however, that the Sewage Committee left the matter of these perquisites to the farm bailiff, with the result that they have been stopped, and consequently the men have not received this increase. I may mention that the farm bailiff got his £50 increase all right!

The Streets Committee and their Men.

Not only are the Barnhurst men affected, there are also strong complaints from the men employed by the Streets Committee. These men have been deprived of their increases on about the most despicable plea that could ever have been invented. The men, say the Committee, are inefficient. I really can't find language to express my contempt for the attitude of this particular department. Four men over 60 years of age who have grown old in the service of the Committee are debarred from participating, although they are performing the same class of work as the rest of the men. And not only these older men, but men of all ages, from 30 years of age and upwards are debarred on the same plea. And the Committee say they are not efficient at street sweeping. Well, something will have to be done soon or there will be even greater difficulty in holding the men back from drastic action than there is at present, and the officials do find it difficult I can assure you. By the way the higher officials of the Council have just concluded a month's holiday. I have no doubt they will come back with renewed vigour and rouse the inefficients (lazy devils!) up a bit.

A resolution calling upon the committees concerned to go into the matter has been sent by the Gasworkers' Union, and the Trades Council have also sent a similar resolution to the Town Council.

Town Council Gets Warm.

There were lively scenes at the last Town Council meeting, at which some most remarkable statements were made. And it was all because the Labour Councillors have been pointing out some of Wolverhampton's black spots. This evidently does not suit Councillor F. Evans, who alluded to speakers on the Market Place, and rather heartedly declared Wolverhampton was no worse than any other place. Very funny. The speaker he alluded had said, in effect, that Wolverhampton was no better than any other place. He said that he had been in the East End of London and many other large cities and had never seen worse conditions than prevailed in Wolverhampton. Can you see the difference between the two statements, dear reader? And when a thing is backed in such a manner by a righteous man like Councillor Evans, you know there must be something in it.

Throwing Mud.

But mud was literally flying about that afternoon. A slur was cast upon the inhabitants of the town when Alderman Gibbons actually stated that it was "all very well to condemn houses, but a good many people in them wanted condemning themselves," to which there were

solemn "Hear, hear's" and some laughter. And I may retort that if any of the people do want condemning at all it has been brought about by the jerry-builders, rack-renters, and slum-property-owners on the Council. Councillor Evans said the people were being used as pawns in a political game. Perhaps Councillor Evans has been playing that game. Anyhow, it is bad sportsmanship to show temper.

Valiant Councillors.

One could not but admire the stand taken by Councillors Frost and Walsh. Walsh, who has made sanitation and housing his study, was able to make a few strong points on some conditions. Though the Health Committee's report was an excellent one it did not remove from actuality that they had a condition of things that called for practical solution in the near future. Alderman Richards said the town had been libelled and that we ought to move slowly. The way Wolverhampton is whizzing along takes one's breath away. We had better pull up and wait for the Alderman. We must not leave him behind, you know. Then Frost took up the cudgels, and here I must protest against the incomplete reports of the Press.

Sympathetic readers will realise that half-truths are very often the greatest untruths. Frost's attack on other speakers was not so much that they evidently had not read the Health report, but that they did not base their reply to Councillor Walsh on the facts of the report. Their only object seemed to be to besmirch our respected Labour candidate for the West for showing and expressing his earnestness on behalf of the poor and oppressed in our town. Councillor Frost congratulated all concerned on the great improvement made both in beginning and ending his speech, instead of which he was represented in the Press to be a carping critic of the town to which he belongs, but neither Frost nor the Labour Party are, like the ostrich, going to bury their heads in the sand when there is anything unpleasant about.

Jobbery.

Doubtless most of my readers have at various times had ramméd home the Tammany system of appointments in New York. It appears to me that we are having some minor editions of it locally. The following resolution, which was passed at the last meeting of the Trades and Labour Council, will greatly explain my reason:

This Council calls upon the Local Government Board to institute an inquiry into the methods adopted by the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians when making appointments in the Poor Law service, particularly in reference to the recent appointment of a rate collector for Bilston, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members for the Parliamentary Borough of Wolverhampton.

The appointment was not advertised, and it was supposed to have been principally made upon the recommendation of the Clerk, but I will just say this, the successful applicant, and, in fact, the only one, was the son of his father, and I have since learnt was very well known to some of the Guardians. Ah, well, we shall see what the L.G.B. have to say to such hole-and-corner business.

Commercialised Press.

At the annual conference of the Institute of Journalists held at York recently, I notice some very severe strictures upon the present ownership of newspapers and the tendency of great amalgamations between newspapers companies. Nine-tenths of the leading daily and evening newspapers belonged to companies or corporations, with neither bodies to be kicked nor souls to be damned. The personal element and influence of the editor and staff was very much upon the wane, and enormous power to sway public opinion by what was published and mislead by what was omitted, was placed in the hands of a few people. This brings me to the exhortation of Labour leaders in regard to politics. Think them out for yourself. Newspapers are supposed to reflect public opinion, but when it comes to politics they deliberately set out to create it. And, unfortunately, a great number of working men are greatly misled by newspaper politics.

King Football.

We are on the threshold of the football season. Though we cannot pretend that a newspaper of this class can attempt to give sporting news of any description, I am going to take this opportunity of extending to the local champions, the Wolverhampton Wanderers, my hearty wishes for a successful season. May they climb the League ladder to the top and find their way to the Crystal Palace. Unlike many people, who denounce all forms of sport—and football particularly because it is a spectators' game, and it is impossible for but few to play it—I welcome the opportunity it gives the workers for watching for an hour and a half what is admitted to be one of the finest spectacular displays it is possible to witness in these days, and because it takes them away for a brief space from the drab surroundings into the fresh air to watch twenty-two healthy specimens of manhood engage in combat. The Wanderers club have

always done their utmost to keep the sport clear from all deteriorating influences in the form of the betting evil, and while wishing them success I may express the hope that in the future as in the past they will continue this attitude.

Why Not Municipalise it?

I notice that the Wolverhampton Gas Company's balance sheet shows a net profit of £13,655 10s. 3d. Is it not about time the Corporation acquired the concern? Surely an important public service like this should not be allowed to remain in the hands of private profit-mongers.

The Municipal Elections.

Preparations are being made by the Labour Representation Committee for the forthcoming November elections. Next month I hope to be able to give a list of candidates, etc. Now, then, you workers, get ready, we're going to win this time—and handsomely. By the way, I am glad to hear that the Friendly Societies are at last realising the necessity for representation on public bodies, and have decided to run a candidate for one of the vacant seats on the Town Council. Also I am informed that they are asking for representation on the Education Committee—by co-option as is the case with the Trades Council. I think they should be able to make out a good case.

THE BALKANS.

FARCE OR TRAGEDY?

Last year the four Christian States in the Balkans made a sudden and unprovoked attack upon the still-existing remnant of the Turkish Empire—in the name of Liberty and Christ.

Later on, also, presumably, in the name of Liberty and of Christ, the allies fell out among themselves, and the three smaller States went for the Bulgarians, who had borne the brunt of the fighting in the war against Turkey, and had not yet got their second wind.

Presently there will be a war between Greece and Montenegro on the one side, and Serbia on the other, over the spoils taken from Bulgaria.

Then there will be a war between Montenegro and Greece over the spoils of Serbia.

Then, assuming that Montenegro, being the least exhausted country of the lot, is victorious, there will be a civil war in Montenegro over the territory wrenched from the Greeks.

Further than this, it is impossible, at the moment, to prophesy!

Anything more like the *scenario* of a comic opera it would be difficult to find in history. But is it comic, or even farcical, for the men who are the pawns in this game of grab?

To judge from the accounts of eye-witnesses it is neither. One special correspondent-on-the-spot describes a corner of a battlefield where some fierce fighting between Bulgarians and Servians had taken place. There were pipes, tobacco-pouches, and playing-cards lying about on the ground. Little homely things like that!

And human hands and arms sticking up out of the soil, where bodies scarcely cold had been buried in a hurry! Grim and tragic things like that!

And letters, torn fragments of letters, scattered about when shells exploded near the owners of them. . . . Many of them pathetic, sentimental little notes from girls, or still more pathetic letters from parents, whose sons will go home no more.

And these men who slaughter each other by the thousand are of the same race, the same religion, the same national character; they have nothing to gain by killing each other.

They are driven like herds of cattle by the Governments at Sofia and Belgrade, at Athens and Cetinje, and by the Capitalists and Army-contractors who support these Governments. They are tools in the hands of the tyrants who oppress them in times of peace, and who organise wars when it suits them, and grow rich on the profits of carnage and destruction. A verse recently given in the *Labour Leader*—

"No love have I for bloody war,
God speed the hour it ceases!
But none the less, I loathe peace more,
When war my wealth increases."

applies only too well to contractors and Capitalists in the Balkans—and in the rest of the world.

It is one of the duties of Socialism to fight against this most hideous and ghastly form of exploitation of the people by their masters. For it is an evil which exists in advanced communities such as Britain, France, and Germany, no less than in such backward and semi-barbarous States as Serbia and Bulgaria.

If force is still to have its use in the world, at least let it be used by the people against their oppressors, and not by the people against themselves for the benefit of those oppressors.

E. HARTMAN LATDALE.

Johnson: "Ah, I see the newspapers are writing about me again this morning!" Simpson: "Indeed! In what connection?" Johnson: "Well, they say that at the close of last week there were over eight hundred thousand people in Liverpool. I am one of them."

"May I have this hat sent home for further inspection, and return it to-morrow if I decide I do not like it?"

"By no means, madam. By to-morrow the styles may have changed!"

Mr. G. J. WARDLE, M.P.

Well-known Poet, Journalist, Pamphleteer, and Public Speaker.

TO VISIT WOLVERHAMPTON.

The chief speaker during the Trades Union Mission Week, of course, will be Mr. G. J. Wardle, F.J.I., M.P., who will address a mass meeting in the Empire.

Few Labour members in the House of Commons can claim the series of distinctions that belong to Mr. Wardle. A close student of economics from his early teens, a public speaker from his youth up, local preacher, journalist, pamphleteer, and poet, Mr. Wardle can look back at the age of forty-seven (he was born May 15, 1865) on an active and honourable career in which the excitements and responsibilities of the industrial movement have not crowded out the finer intellectual interests and pursuits. Entering the service of the Midland Railway Company as a clerk at Keighley when he was fifteen, he found time not only to read widely and well, but to preach for the Wesleyan Methodist Church, to which he belonged, and later to take the platform for the Independent Labour Party and to edit the *Keighley Labour*



MR. G. J. WARDLE, M.P.

Journal. Before he was twenty he had written essays and composed poems; these latter he tries to conceal like a secret sin, but unsuccessfully. In 1898, on the retirement of Mr. Fred Maddison, he was appointed editor of the *Railway Review*, which he continues to edit; he was elected M.P. for Stockport in 1906, and now divides his time between the House of Commons and the editorial offices of the *Review*, varied with incessant public speaking on Labour platforms and at Brotherhoods and P.S.A. and religious conferences.

A representative of a popular weekly who interviewed Mr. Wardle some time ago, gave the following sketch:—

"I found Mr. Wardle at the editorial offices of the *Railway Review*, where everything was swept and garnished, papers neatly arranged on his desk, books put back in their places on the shelves, the hurried labour and disorder of getting the paper to press over for one week and just fairly beginning for the next. An editorial office is like no other place on earth, and Mr. Wardle's room is rather remarkable even for such; it is the room of a working journalist and a working member of Parliament combined. To the initiated journalist this suggests the last word in confusion. But Mr. Wardle has the instinct, or perhaps it is the acquired habit, of orderliness. In speaking, at least, he fashions his sentences slowly, sometimes re-casting them, mentally erasing words that do not fit his thought, and always carefully moulding them into shape before he utters them. He writes, I imagine, quicker than he talks, writing being his natural habit of expression. Stoutly and strongly built, he yet bears traces of the harassing life of a modern M.P. and Labour leader in these days of abnormal legislative activity and equally abnormal industrial unrest."

There is no doubt that a big crowd will assemble to hear Mr. Wardle, and everyone will be advised to be in the seats at the time advertised for the commencement of the meeting.

WHAT A SYSTEM!

What a system, anyway,
Some must work for little pay,
Others have no work to do,
And are in a pretty stew;
Some don't have to work at all,
And on servants they can call;
Some have everything to eat,
And a house on Easy-street;
Others live in shabby shacks,
And have rags upon their backs;
Some must worry, fret, and strive,
Just to keep themselves alive;
To exist from day to day,
What a system, anyway.

—COMING NATION.

RAILWAY NATIONALISATION

The following views of General Managers upon this question have been culled from "The Case for Railway Nationalisation" by Emil Davies (Chairman Railway Nationalisation Society), of which Mr. A. G. Walkden, and Mr. G. J. Wardle, F.J.I., M.P., who is shortly to visit Wolverhampton, are prominent members.

The book is one of the Nation's Library series and is published at One Shilling. We would advise any of our readers who are interested in the subject to get a copy and, after perusal, we can definitely say they will heartily echo the King's call, "Wake up England!"

Mr. A. Kaye Butterworth, General Manager, North-Eastern Railway, in a memorandum to Committee of Board of Trade Railway Conference, 1909, said:—

It may be worth while drawing attention at the outset to the fact that the history of British Railways up to the present has been a record of successive amalgamations. For instance, the half-dozen largest railway undertakings in England are made up of 300 amalgamations, and the mileage of the railways acquired by purchase or amalgamations (as distinguished from the original mileage of the parent Company and the mileage of new lines constructed from time to time by that Company) can hardly be less than three-quarters of the total mileage of these undertakings. Unless, therefore, we are prepared to admit the possibility of the whole railway policy in the past having been in a wrong direction, the inference is irresistible that combination between railways up to a point is desirable, and the only question to be considered at any particular time is whether that point has been reached, leaving out of view the policy of uniting all railways under one management, which would almost necessarily mean the management by, or on behalf of, the State.

Sir W. Guy Granet, General Manager of the Midland Railway, in a memorandum to the Committee of the Board of Trade Railway Conference, 1909, said:—

So long as the present relations between the railways and the State continues, it seems certain that, subject to proper safeguards in the interests both of the public and of other Railway Companies, considerable benefit would be derived by extending the opportunities for diminution of competition between Railway Companies.

Whether more extensive benefits might not be attained by a more complete and systematic elimination of competition, short of State purchase, by a scientific grouping of railways, constitutes an alluring field for speculation and inquiry.

Apart, however, from the inherent difficulties in connection with any attempt at defining the limits of the proposed groups, I do not see how such a result could be achieved without direct Government action, and as a necessary concomitant, direct Government financial assistance and control. After reading the minutes of the meeting between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the President of the Board of Trade and the representative of the Railway Association, it is clear, however, not only that such an inquiry is outside the scope of this Conference, but that the Board of Trade are not prepared to indicate the possession of any opinion upon the subject.

Sir George S. Gibb, formerly General Manager of the North-Eastern Railway and Metropolitan District Railway, in an

so far as the railways are concerned, which cannot be regarded as free competition on a commercial basis. It is impracticable to secure unification or any very extensive or far-reaching combination of railways under private management, and I doubt whether any form of control which has yet been devised, or is likely to be devised, combined with partial competition, can give entirely satisfactory results.

Mr. F. H. Dent, General Manager, South-Eastern and Chatham Railway, in an address to the Railway Students' Association, reported in the *Railway Gazette* for October 25, 1912, said:—

He was not advocating State purchase. It was not, he thought, for a railway official to advocate it or otherwise, he only thought it must come.

THE DRIVERS. A TRAGEDY.

An open hearse bearing a coffin on its silver-railed top passed down the street on its way to the cemetery.

It was the funeral of an engine driver killed on the line.

Following the hearse was one coach containing a helpless, dazed wife and seven round-eyed, wondering children. After that walked drivers, firemen, and engine-cleaners. The little procession was no imposing affair. Yet its dignity tortured the soul and made it shriek aloud for justice. Its bright purity struck through the pomp and purple of the unworthy, and cast them up for what they were—affronts to Christ on the Cross. The manliness of it struck one in the face like a whip. And that day men who would have giped at the circumstance of kings and made a mockery of Hell, took off their hats, bowed, and went their way—the better men.

A Man was passing.

The brakes had failed to act, and the engine had crashed down the Ringrose main slope into a standing coal train and destruction. The fireman jumped at the driver's warning shout, but the driver when daylight came was picked up in a bag.

The Rev. Robert Smith, a prelate more famed for his goodness than his high falutin' words, attended the shareholders' meeting twelve months before Richard Green met his death at the bottom of the Ringrose main slope. And so did Miss Mary Brown, another unselfish person, who gave her life and a goodly share of her substance to needier people. That day they helped to elect a new general manager, and that day they took part in the murder of Richard Green.

The new general manager was a worker. Henceforward the watchwords of the company were to be retrenchment and reform. The line was in a bad position—that's why the old manager was kicked out. Money must be made—that's why the new one was elected. He was a sure money spinner. He saw to it that his different subordinates understood exactly what was wanted.

The running-shed foreman had no illusions on the subject. He gathered all his men around him. "It's no sort of dam' use," he shouted; "there's to be a thundering sight more work turned off here, and I'm here to see it done, an' don't you fergit it. So, my lads, it's up to you to shake yourselves out a little if we're still to agree. The Lord knows I'm no driver," he bawled—he had to bawl so that the men shouldn't be able to say his voice shook—"but if I don't drive you some one else will"—a thing that was so true it hardly needed saying. The foreman, it may be added, had a houseful of children.

So he drove them, and it really seemed to succeed. Of course the work suffered. But nobody minded that, least of all the foreman, and he had been wont to swear by quality.

"A good job is its own reward," he used to say in the old days. "Will it run?" was what he said now.

If the engine would keep on turning round until it was clear of the sheds that was "good enough." Old hands remarked on the change in the foreman and shook their heads. Some day there would be a —, well, never mind. What's the use of worrying? Accidents were always the —Hand of God, were they not.

big lot on" was the foreman's careless way of referring to what Jack knew was a "hell for leather" night, but Jack was, like the foreman, a married man, and could not afford to talk back.

So Jack and his mate "ripped into it" and before supper-time had "squared up" 320's injector and the valves on 229. After supper they tackled 1130's big ends, and for many hours sweated as few men sweat on night-work. Knocking off time was approaching as they finished with 1130, and they were for leaving 947 and its brakes to the day shift. Unfortunately the foreman came round and coldly observed that 947 ought to have been done first as it was due out first. This was a lie, and he knew it; 947 was not due out until the following afternoon, but the repair list was not sufficiently imposing for the foreman, and Jack and his mate, fagged out as they were, trailed off wearily to 947 and its "blasted brakes." That's what they said about them. They spoke truth.

Luckily 947's brakes did not appear to require much. Jack took them up a hole on each side and tried them. They seemed all right, so at that he left them. He was too tired to—as it was his plain duty to do—take out all brake pins on both sides. Had he done so he would have replaced that half-worn-through pin on the left hand side, the pin that lasted just long enough to take 947 to the top of the Ringrose main slope.

It is doubtful if the Rev. Robert Smith or Miss Brown saw the out-of-the-way little paragraph that told of an engine driver killed on the line. If they did, they no doubt felt very sad and sorry. It is scarcely to be imagined they connected it with the extra two per cent. they were getting from the railway. A.B.

THE EDITOR'S POST BAG

[We do not identify ourselves with opinions expressed in this column, which is open to our readers for the discussion of matters of interest. Correspondents are asked to be brief as the space at our disposal is limited. Name and address must be enclosed when correspondents use a *nom-de-plume*.—Ed.]

LIBERALS AND NON-UNION LABOUR.

To the Editor, "Wolverhampton Worker."

Sir,—Some time ago a carping critic, who systematically writes to a local newspaper with suggestions intended for the edification of the Labour candidate for Wolverhampton West, stated in one of his effusions that he was grieved to find the local Trades and Labour Council's monthly journal (the *WORKER*) was being printed at the headquarters of the Labour movement, namely, the National Labour Press.

At the time I did not consider it worth my while to remind the particular Liberal adherent that millions of Liberal Party pamphlets, etc., were printed at the Liberal headquarters; nor to give the reason why the above-mentioned happening must needs be so, in that as the National Labour Press produces *The Daily Citizen* and the *Labour Leader* it is consequently in a position to render to the *WORKER* assistance in many ways that would be impossible for any local printing firm to do.

What I do desire to give prominence to now, though, is not merely the simple coincidence I have pointed out by the way, nor even the happy fact that local printers, notwithstanding, obtain a good amount of printing on Mr. Walkden's account. The deliberate cause of my letter is to emphasise quite another matter altogether, which, whilst it may be highly entertaining to a few, is, on the other hand, of very grave concern indeed.

The *London Typographical Journal*, the official organ of the London Society of Compositors, gives prominence in its columns to what is described as "Our Objection List." Under this heading are registered certain publications produced at non-union printing works. Among the number "blacklisted" appears the *Young Liberal*, the official organ of the League of Young Liberals!

As I have been invited to send copies of other publications suitable for inclusion in the said list, should any reliable (!) member of the Liberal Party be kind enough to let me know of any more of the party's printing which might be done in non-society offices I will readily oblige by sending to the right quarter the desired information.—Yours, &c., J. H. JACKSON.
Newhampton Road.

WHERE IS THE REMEDY?

To the Editor, "Wolverhampton Worker."

Sir,—Your issue for August is full of interest and food for thought. Among the most striking is your article on "Three Revolutions." Three

political propaganda. We are then we were then. My study concludes that the cause of the things is not a fallen angel of heaven for disobedience, for to me that there could be. The cause of the evil is not a cloven-hoofed, long-tailed ge about the earth inciting ge reputation to force their lab desperate, savage, ar heart order to obtain a mere 23s. a build up their frame, and to and to breed, feed, and train their places when they have bosom of Mother Earth. Th element in human nature. It painful; it glories in being a riage through any Act of Par be passed. Man's inhuman the situation, and has done ages.

36, West-street.

[We have had to curtail a letter to some extent. W columns to a religio —Ed. W. W.]

"A CHRISTIAN SO

To the Editor, "Wolverhampton Worker."

Sir,—Under this heading "J.F." in your August issue gistic strain on Rev. Dr. Ball on "Something better than present, attended to every wo and came away, like many of If the Doctor advanced th gramme one iota that Sunda it unconsciously, and if " cause was really strengthened lard said, or rather, did no sanguine than I thought he satisfied. For the fact is completely avoided Socialism a doubtful manner some of its and making some personal re be taken either in jest or ea sequently asked to explain ments, was "J.F." really sati teacher" was simply jugglin backed down from his aftern

We expected to hear an a as one of the forces of the c hymns and a reading of a ch rians, followed by an explanat knew beforehand, again, foll remarks on obscure meanin arrangement of the Bible, af ences to the short time a minutes had already been o preliminaries), we at length "Altruism is better than So we get this we are to have C ism is the "gospel of love" does that take us?). Socialism down to "Social improvement anti-Christian nor anti-religio was, but how much "forrarder heard that "Socialism is a dre out practically," but were not why or where, and the Doct "Holiness was better than it were to strive, abstaining fr to regard a vicious thought very well in its way, but "great teacher" he was car a lesson on what we wanted, pelling clouds and suspicions, cal ignorance, bias, and prej majority of those present (by number) simply as they wer we received a stone.

"Fire and enthusiasm" w but the audience enjoyed so and, naturally, echoed the s improvement and brotherho Socialisation" as a phrase (w the speaker used) does not car To-day we want something m Evils exist, men are in want by untold wealth. There tribution, willing workers are tunities are not afforded to tions on the Higher Criticism ings of words are not in the us towards remedying matte burdens where they can best etc.,

CHRISTIANITY AND THE

To the Editor, "Wolverhampton Worker."

Sir,—Will you allow me to e tion of the article on this su R. W. Thompson, which app issue?

I hope that this excellent e lowed by other ministers ar town. It is only by the wides ideas that we can reach the li I welcome Mr. Thompson's co etc.,
Merridale-road,

REBELS WAN

To the Editor, "Wolverhampton Worker."

CLOTHES AND THE MAN.

By LEO HENRY.

Reputation is what men and women think of us
Character is what God and angels know of us
—Thomas Paine.

Emphasis is often laid upon "appearing smart," although many individual's appearance is the only smart possession. A little closer observation may show a fool or a rogue. The workman with his overalls, corduroys, and greasy hands, face almost unrecognisable owing to previous sweat and clinging dust, often proves himself a smarter and truer man than he who lays greatest stress upon mere appearances. Nevertheless it is generally admitted that innumerable people object to conversation in the public thoroughfare with persons attired in working clothes. I would suggest that if these people look into the matter, and attempt to understand that the man with the tool bag on his back, and hard-worn hands, is the very life of the country; their intelligence will have developed greatly.

* * *

The workman deserves every honour. Let men who are either prejudiced or insane cease to condemn the worker because he is ill-clad whether it be week-day or Sabbath. First learn to understand the cause of poverty, and the ocean of facts that are not hard to discover lying behind the well-patched clothes. Men are not slovenly by nature, neither is the cause found in the fact that all men are not teetotalers.

* * *

If a workman spends a shilling in beer on a Saturday, and is probably treated to another shilling's worth, he passes through the town in a rather awkward manner. Those who notice his "merry smile" brand him as "a bad, wicked man." If an employer or capitalist, or other superior person sees good in visiting the club or fashionable hotel, and spends five to ten pounds in having a good night, arriving home in the small hours of the following morning, and occasionally instructing his secretary to send half a guinea to the local charities or chapel bazaar,—he is an angel, all but ready for the pair of beautiful white wings to wear in the next world.

* * *

While I do not attempt to defend the workman who spends a shilling or two in drink when his boots require attention, I would emphasize the fact that if drink were the cause of any man being ill-clad, he who spends the sovereign in wines, would not have a rag to his back. I imagine the reply coming from the wine-bibbers, "Oh yes, but you must understand that the man who spent a sovereign in wines had much more money at his command, while in the case of the workman he had but a week's wage—and very little at that." I admit that this is so, but while the difference is merely stated, no explanation is given as to why the workman, who by his labour produces all the good things of life, should not have sufficient of this world's goods to enable him to be clothed decently, while another person whose good productions are nil may spend many pounds in wine and even then command the best of everything.

* * *

Let us look at life as it really is. Workmen are moved like draughts in a game. The game, however, is called commercialism. The players are the capitalists. They inaugurate plans for each others aggrandisement, and their rival's downfall. They grab all the possible chances of robbing the worker. They move him, they attempt to destroy his voice in the game, they never give to him what is his due, and they discard him. The employer treats the workman well or ill according to what suits his (the employer's) own aims and objects. I only have to quote "Election time" to prove this to be true.

* * *

Each employer, being the dictator of the employee, may worry and whip the man by the various means known as speeding up, silence in workshop, and thousands of tyrannies under the name of discipline. By these means a state of financial success is reached, and when the employer may have his wines without thought for the morrow, for now he has quite a number of parasites to guard his bag of gold.

* * *

What of the workman? While the employer has been amassing wealth—some people call it rising from nothing—the workman has remained a slave. Despondent and agonised in the state of bondage he realises that the truest pleasures of life are denied him.

* * *

To-day he is beginning to investigate the cause of his poor clothes, and empty stomach. He is calling for a happier, freer, and wholesome life. He is becoming dissatisfied with surroundings, customs and the chains that hold him in his wretched position, under present conditions the workman can neither choose his surroundings, enjoyments, or even his children's education. These conditions are thrown and forced upon him by the ruling class solely for their edification, and not to supply a natural need. The day is not far distant when the workmen's voice will have to be heard. In that day he will have a happier home, and his children a brighter future.

"COMING-OF-AGE."

Important Campaign by the I.L.P.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Everybody is wondering what is going to happen at Wolverhampton as the outcome of the celebration of the "Coming-of-Age" of Socialism. Tories and Liberals are trembling with fear lest its influence shall become a widespread force.

It is twenty-one years since the veteran stalwart, Mr. Keir Hardie (who is this year, it is pleasing to know, in the occupancy of the chair) first inaugurated the Independent Labour Party, then becoming its first chairman.

Although the new movement, at its onset, like most other fresh theories, met with a variety of opposition from many quarters, it has during the time it has taken to attain to "manhood"—and "womanhood"—made enormous headway. There is scarcely a town in the United Kingdom to-day which has not its branch of the I.L.P.

The movement is represented on all the public bodies, and has its adherents inside Parliament, who are known to be men of great reasoning power and high intelligence.

Small surprise then that the capitalist parties locally are in a state of terrible anxiety as to whether the propaganda that the town's wing of the Socialist organisation has done in the past is on the point of receiving its crowning realisation.



F. W. JOWETT, M.P.

The local "Coming-of-Age" week opens on September 20, continuing until the 28th. Certainly the branch here is determined to do its part valiantly. Meetings will be held in every part of the borough.

The chief speaker will be F. W. Jowett, M.P., sent down by the National Executive. The Labour candidate for the West (Mr. A. G. Walkden) will also give support and advocacy.

The popular Member for Bradford came into prominence with the unexpected defeat of Sir E. Flower, who was then the sitting member for that constituency. Fred Jowett's championing of the workers' cause, together with his clear and lucid expression, showing attention and deep thought, endeared him to the people, with the result that he was returned with one of the largest majorities among the Labour group, which position he still holds quite safely.

His consistent work on behalf of the school children, which reached its climax in the passing of the Feeding of Necessitous School Children's Act, and again in the Medical Inspection of School children Act has proved his sterling worth.

Quite recently he startled the House of Commons by bringing into use huge diagrams showing how children had lost in weight and stamina through lack of food during the holidays, with the result that an amendment was carried providing for the feeding of the children during that period.

All those who wish to hear clear and sound logic should not miss Fred Jowett's visit to the Empire on Sunday, September 23. The President of the I.L.P., Mr. E. Faulkner, will be in the chair, supported by Mr. A. G. Walkden, prospective Labour candidate for Wolverhampton West, and all those desirous of hearing should make a point of being in their place at the appointed time.

OTHER MEETINGS.

The following is a list of the other arrangements for the week:—

- Saturday, September 20, at 7-30, Market Patch.
- Sunday, 7, Snow Hill.
- Monday, 7-30, Snow Hill.
- Tuesday, 7-30, Cobden-street, Blakenhall.
- Wednesday, 7-30, Merridale-street West.
- Thursday, 7-30, Monmore Green.
- Friday, 7-30, Round House.
- Saturday, 7-30, Market Place.

As many meetings as possible should be attended, as listeners will be well repaid for their attendance, and will go away with a good knowledge of what Socialism stands for, and an idea of what it will ultimately accomplish—economic and social salvation.

J.H.J.

QUALIFIED.—Two men were hotly discussing the merits of a new book. Finally one of them, himself an author, said to the other: "No, John, you can't appreciate it. You never wrote a book yourself." "No," retorted John, "and I never laid an egg, but I'm a better judge of an omelet than any hen in the State."

THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

"And ignorance breeds fear, and fear breeds greed, and greed that wealth whose converse is poverty."—EDWARD CARPENTER.

There is at the present time a tendency for the manual worker to forget that there are other kinds of work beside manual labour, quite as strenuous and just as necessary in the great fight for emancipation. As it is necessary to acquire a technical training for the benefit of our industrial calling, so is it necessary to develop our faculties and educate ourselves to fit ourselves for social service.

If those who labour with their hands would realise that other kinds of labour, mental and spiritual, are necessary for human life they would deal more wisely than they do with the existing working class Educational Associations. Men and women must have something more than knowledge; they must have the means of bringing their desires and ideas out of their first primitive condition of isolation into those channels along which real changes in life and human society might be effected.

The educated man must not only have right ideas, right ideals, and right intentions; he must also have some sense of the manner in which these ideals can actually be brought to bear upon the facts of human life. The uneducated men or women are generally those who have got into



A. BODEN.

a rut, and go on doing a thing without any idea beyond the performance of the allotted task.

To be educated is to feel that the world is a place of promise, and has in it an intention of better things. Under these circumstances we turn naturally to grasp the weapons that are furnished only by education. Knowledge is not only a weapon, knowledge is power; to achieve it some are willing to make any sacrifice. No doubt there is still much to do as regards workmen's education, and it is to be desired that every town should have an institution to spread knowledge. Workpeople all over the world have need for a higher education, and endeavours must be made to gain it. Labour has to fight for much, and knowledge is the most necessary weapon.

"Knowledge is power" only when knowledge is applied. Mere book knowledge in itself is practically useless unless it is of such a character and is employed in such a manner as to prove of service, not only to the possessor of such knowledge, but to others. The success of democracy depends upon the richness of the minds of the common folk, the accuracy of their judgments, and the quality of their tastes. The emancipation of labour will only be achieved by an educated democracy.

We as workers do not want a ladder, but a broad, firm, educational highway along which everyone may travel if they possess the ability. If men and women are to be free citizens in a free State, they must control educational policy and write their ideals boldly upon every educational institution. But, to take the matter on a practical level, how is this education to be obtained?

We, the Workers' Educational Association, desire to appeal to all workers to join us. The W.E.A. exists to promote the higher education of working men and women, by promoting lectures, University tutorial classes, reading circles, and educational visits, etc. It seeks to induce amongst the workers a keen desire for knowledge. We invite your support and co-operation. The subscription is 1s. per annum.

J.S.

A SONG OF LABOUR.

By Horace Spencer Fiske.

- A song for the builders of beauty,
The rearers of temple and spire;
- A song to the strong men of duty
Who shape the world's future in fire.
- Sing, sing to the women, the mothers,
The weavers of life and of fate;
- The sisters who toil for the brothers,
And open to hope the white gate.
- A song to the brain that devises,
And bends nature's will into law;
- A song to the brain that suffices
Its purpose from many to draw.
- Sing, sing to the thinkers and hewers—
To brothers of brain and of brawn;
- A song to the world's mighty doers
Who work for a hastening dawn.

—LIFE AND LABOUR.

JOTTINGS.

Did you observe the breeze in the Town Council chamber recently regarding housing conditions, and did you observe that one small coterie did most of the shouting.

A short time ago, I gave a hint of a housing scandal in this column, which some of our readers may possibly recall, in which one of the present Councillors was very intimately concerned.

Knowing the facts of the case, I will go so far as to say that if you searched the annals of British Councils it would be impossible to find such a state of affairs as appeared in the scandal referred to.

Possibly most of my readers have forgotten that some years ago a return of property and owners was made in the borough, and it was then discovered that nearly half the slum property was owned by Town Councillors of that day.

I wonder if a return was called for to-day how it would pan out.

A recent social affair has apparently raised a little commotion, as witness some inquiries we have had addressed to us.

"Constant Reader" asks: "Is it a fact that the next migration to Solihull will consist of the whole town?"

I think, "Constant Reader," you have got hold of the wrong end of the stick. I have heard it said that Mr. Bird intends to move Tudor Grange to Wolverhampton.

Another "Kind Enquirer" asks: "If the Conservatives are returned to power, and Mr. Bird along with them, at the next general election, what will Mr. Bird's title be?"

Ask me another.

A third, "Bob Sievier," asks: "Does money talk?"

Yes, "Bob," it does, and if you desire any further corroboration inquire of Mr. Bird or the West Wolverhampton Conservative Association.

Just a word to those working men who declare they are Conservatives. According to the Darwinian theory we used to sport tails and live in trees. Times have changed since then, and it behoves you to bring your politics up-to-date.

How many thousands of working men are there who are Conservatives, not from conviction, but simply because their father and grandfather were before them.

Poverty is a fascinating and elevating experience to those who have not tried it.

Rich people would have you believe that happiness can only exist with poverty.

It is computed there are upwards of 8,000,000 acres of waste ground capable of cultivation in Great Britain.

The writer, who has recently spent his holidays in Scotland, had this brought home to him in a very forcible manner by the Highlanders.

A typical case was quoted. On one of the islands in the Hebrides there were 600 families of crofters or small holders. They, however, were ejected, so that the island could be turned into a deer forest.

My informant stated the island has been allowed to go back to its wild state, covered with bracken, etc., and would now require almost a generation of work to bring it up to its former productive state.

C. VERE.

NATIONAL INSURANCE.

Provincial Printers' Approved Society's Annual Conference.

The first Annual Conference of the above Society was held at Buxton during August, the Wolverhampton delegate being Mr. A. Hickling. Owing to the Government rules and regulations the business was necessarily of a routine character, but the Secretary's Report was of a very instructive nature. After showing that the Society was progressing very satisfactorily financially, because of the high rate of employment and the comparatively low rate of sickness in the printing and allied trades, he pointed out that the sickness risk was always greatest where low wages prevailed. Low wages meant insufficient and low-grade food, bad housing, lack of cleanliness, etc., and thus an approved society felt the effect of cheap labour. He instanced the case of a woman in Manchester, age 23, who received the magnificent wage of 7s. weekly. Wolverhampton was cited as being one of the worst towns in the Society's experience for sickness. The Society is managed entirely by its own members, and has the assistance of a very able Committee, who manage the business economically. Thus it is hoped, when the valuation takes place, to be able to offer the members increased benefits. Mr. W. H. Shaw (*Midland Evening News*) was unanimously elected an honorary member for his valuable services during the past year, and he was also elected to the Committee, together with Mr. A. Hickling. The venue of the next Conference is to be Chesterfield.

THE WORKERS.

What the Various People's Movements are Doing.

WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE.

The local branch of the Women's Labour League intends to celebrate its first birthday by means of a Reunion, to be held in the Labour Assembly Rooms on Thursday, September 11. A tea will be provided, to be followed by a Social, at an inclusive charge of sixpence. It is hoped that all members will be present, and, where possible, bring a prospective new member. There is much "women's work" to be done, and the old adage is as true to-day as when first spoken, "Many hands make light work." We should aim at making membership of the W.L.L. for women as important as is membership of a Trade Union for men.

The weekly sewing meetings re-commence on Wednesday, September 17, and our desire is to hold a sale of work previous to Christmas. Will all members see to it that they attend regularly that our object may be achieved.

Keep a sharp look out for the Conference to be held in September, when Dr. Ethel Bentham will be present, and deal with the subject of "Child Welfare." There is no question which demands our earnest attention more than the care of the child, and it is our bounden duty to see that everything that can be legally done for the children, every Act of Parliament that is for the benefit of the children, should be put into operation, and the women of Wolverhampton should see to it that all candidates for the Town Council should be very closely questioned as to their attitude in respect to the compulsory feeding of school children and the establishment of clinics for the treatment of diseases discovered by the school doctor. We want the help of the women on this important subject, and the women should fit themselves for dealing with it. Dr. Ethel Bentham is an authority, therefore come and hear what she has to say. The date will be announced shortly. A.D.

I.L.P. NOTES.

It is pleasing indeed to have to report that the interesting event, which had so eagerly been looked forward to, viz., the picnic to Stretton by motor-boat on August Tuesday, proved successful beyond every expectation. A large muster of comrades and friends presented themselves at Newbridge in good time for the outing, and we sailed away in the best of spirits. All spent a thoroughly good time, the weather being particularly favourable. The hostess admirably catered for our inner wants. Here's to many such future occasions! A fine feeling of comradeship was manifested, which augured well for the good times in store for the branch.

It was a significant feature of the first members' meeting held at headquarters after the relaxation alluded to that the attendance was the largest recorded for many months past.

Subscriptions continue to flow in with regularity, and all members are paying with the smiling face. Keep on doing it comrades; with the necessary "sinews" we shall yet be able to wage a vigorous warfare on behalf of Socialism.

The "Coming-of-Age" Campaign is dealt with in another column, which should be read and talked about. Let Wolverhampton know that we intend to raise the standard high, and embrace thousands of workers under its sway. E.F.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY TOPICS.

As I sit down to write I am reminded we have just heard of a secretary of one of the lodges connected with the United Patriots being presented with a long service medal. He served his Lodge for 42 years, during which period he never paid out a death claim. Surely this is a record! We wonder, is it because the members of that particular lodge never die, or because the duty devolves on someone else? We think a man who has served his fellows for 42 years deserves a rest—and a comfortable one.

According to some of the latest reports certain people are surprised and shocked at what they designate malingering. This has to do, more or less with the men and women who receive low wages, yet these people would have us believe that malingering is carried on wholesale. Men and women who are quite well, they say, feign sickness in order to pick up the sick pay they are entitled to in the event of being unable to follow their employment. In every case, before a person can claim sick benefit it is necessary to obtain a certificate from the doctor to that effect. Why, then, if the person is not sick, does the doctor give a certificate?

I do not believe for a moment malingering goes on to any great extent. What really is the matter is that owing to conditions of labour, lack of proper food and comforts, we do not get the proportion of the workers enjoying good health as we ought to have.

I have had an opportunity as a special sick visitor to investigate in some small degree, and from what I have seen I wonder the health of the people is as good as it is, and if any one would like to be enlightened on this point, I should be very pleased to direct their steps where they can see for themselves conditions on every hand that militate against good health, to say nothing of the temptation to a man or woman whose wages are so small that 10s. sick pay per week is sufficient to make them dishonest.

No! Malingering is exaggerated. We get the evil it is true, but these cases are very few and far between, and if I were asked who is to blame I should answer not the Act, not the societies, not the members, but the doctor. J.H.B.

P.S.A. NOTES.

The Bilston Brotherhood, which possesses a membership of over 200, have recently joined the P.S.A. Federation, and, from the information I have acquired, I should say that they are one of the most progressive Brotherhoods in this district. Although working in conjunction with the Bilston Free Church Council, it is a self-governing body, the officers and committees being elected by the members themselves. The present officers are:—President, Mr. J. L. Bussey; treasurer, Mr. S. Cornfield; secretary, Mr. T. H. Gwilliam. The vice-presidents include prominent men from the majority of the churches at Bilston.

The following record is a splendid testimony to the zeal and energy displayed by the members—a record of which they are justly proud—a record worthy of emulation by other organisations of a similar character:—

1.—A very fine and effective system of visitation (managed by a sub-committee).

2.—BOWLING CLUB.—This has been remarkably successful. Members play on their own green; this green, the flower beds, and walks have been made, and the pavilion erected, by the labour of the members of the Brotherhood. The ground belongs to Mr. R. D. Lewis, of Arthog House, Bilston, and, owing to the generosity of that gentleman, only a nominal rental is paid. I am informed that should the members decide to build a "Brotherhood Hall" there, a promise has been made that considerable financial help will be tendered. Several "open-air" Brotherhood meetings have been held this summer—in the grounds of Arthog House, and also on the Bowling Green.

3.—SAVINGS (and Holiday) CLUB.

4.—CYCLE CLUB.—In connection with this it is pleasing to hear that about 150 poor children were enabled to have a "trip into the country" early in August.

5.—AND BEST OF ALL.—The men are realising the meaning of "fraternity" and "brotherhood," and, as a natural result, are exercising a fine influence in the works, the factories, and in the home. As an illustration, the following episode may interest my readers. One of the members' wives told a stall-keeper in the market a short time ago "that she used to buy 'scraps of meat' late on a Saturday night—now she could come and buy a 'nice fowl' early in the afternoon."

That is all the information I have been able to glean, but I think it is sufficient to indicate that the little township of Bilston is alive to the importance of the Brotherhood movement.

I have been very much interested in the addresses delivered at the People's Class on two occasions by Mr. Tarratt (who is an enthusiast in the work of the Bilston Brotherhood). He is an eloquent and convincing speaker, and his visits are much enjoyed by the members.

Re the appeal for "List of Speakers," which has appeared in this column several times. It appears that one or two Secretaries are under a wrong impression concerning this. They imagined that all that was required were the names of the speakers amongst their own members. This is not so. What the Organising Secretary is asking for is that each Secretary will send to 49, Crowther Road the names and addresses of all the speakers who visit their P.S.A. Class or Brotherhood, as well as the speakers in their own ranks. I trust that, in the interest of these various organisations themselves, as well as in the interests of the Federation, Secretaries will forward the information as quickly as possible.

By kind permission of the Pastor and Deacons of Queen Street Congregational Church, the Mass Meeting of the P.S.A. Federation on September 21st will be held in that building. I hope that all the Societies affiliated with the Federation will keep that date open in order to give their members an opportunity of hearing Mr. Horn.

A huge poster outside the Waterloo Road Baptist Church announces that the "Brotherhood meetings will commence on September 28th." This is rather later than was anticipated—still, "better late than never." I wish them every success; and shall be pleased to receive any further information from this (as well as other P.S.A.'s and Brotherhoods) quarter that the secretary may feel disposed to impart.

Owing to so many speakers and soloists being away on holiday at this time of the year, I learn from the officers of several classes that there is a great difficulty in filling up their programme for the ensuing session. If this should "catch the eye" of any who have open dates, will they send word to the Organising Secretary, and he will put them into communication with Secretaries who would appreciate to the full all offers of voluntary service in this direction. F. J. T.

ADULT SCHOOL NOTES.

The visit of the Rev. R. W. Thompson to Stafford Street was greatly enjoyed by all who were present, though I must say that I was disappointed to see the small attendance. This was to some extent owing to the fact that special services were being held at Heath Town, and members of that school were prevented from attending.

Before going on with his address, Mr. Thompson complimented the Stafford Street stalwarts on the interest they were taking in their church, and there is no doubt about it that they do take a pride in it. There is quite an improvement there since the new building was erected.

Mr. Thompson's address was just of the character which is necessary to-day to stimulate young men. As one of my friends said to me after the class broke up: "I like Mr. Thompson because he doesn't seem to preach at you." That's just the thing I had been thinking, and it is the secret of his popularity. Mr. Thompson treats us in brotherly fashion, just a heart-to-heart talk.

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It was also the occasion of the prize distribution at Stafford Street, and Mr. Thompson kindly distributed these. An interesting and pleasing event was the presentation of a silver-mounted ebony walking stick to the organist, Mr. W. Elliott, as a token of the esteem in which he is held. It was quite a surprise to that gentleman, and he was gratified at the sense of appreciation shown by the class. There is no doubt that Stafford Street owes much to their organist, and I have no doubt that from now Mr. Elliott will take a double pride in Stafford Street now that he knows how much his services are appreciated.

I now come to the flower show at Newhampton Road. The show was very successful. The entries were more numerous than in the previous year, and the display of fruit, flowers, and vegetables was very creditable to the competitors. The certificates of merit and prizes were distributed by Rev. J. Davison Brown, in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Jesse Varley. Mr. F. E. Sankey, who takes a keen interest in the work of the Morning School, very kindly increased the value of each prize by 6d. During the afternoon selections were given upon the gramophone, and from the "Buffet" delicacies that appeal to the inner man were dispensed.

The occasion was one that afforded the members of the Morning School and their friends an opportunity to fraternise with each other, and the work of the School will no doubt be stimulated and helped by the success of the venture. We append a list of the prize winners:—

Class 1, sweet peas: 1, H. Taylor; 2, A. Turner; 3, F. Thurstans. Class 2, roses: 1, F. J. Smith; 2, E. Sutton. Class 3, window plants: 1, R. Mercer; 2, G. E. Graville; 3, F. J. Smith. Class 4, dishes of fruit in season: 1, E. Sutton; 2, F. Thurstans; 3, F. J. Smith. Class 4a, cut flowers: 1, G. E. Graville; 2, F. J. Smith; 3, H. J. Houlston. Class 5, vegetables and salads: 1, W. A. Hartwell; 2, A. Turner; 3, F. J. Smith; 4, G. E. Graville. Class 6, cut flowers: 1, E. Smith; 2, A. Turner; 3, G. E. Graville. Class 7, nosegays or cut flowers: 1, E. Sutton; 2, F. Thurstans; 3, E. Smith. Class 8, one or two vases of sweet peas: 1, H. Taylor; 2, W. Dews; 3, F. Thurstans. Class 9, vegetables: 1, E. Smith; 2, A. Turner; 3, E. Smith. Exhibits in classes 1 to 5 inclusive to be of member's own growing. The exhibits in the other classes might be obtained from any convenient source.

The second Anniversary of Newhampton Road School was held during July, and at the early meeting Mr. Price Lewis was the speaker, and Mr. E. Edwards the soloist. The Rev. J. Davison Brown presided, and at the morning service made special reference to the Morning School movement.

One suggestion I should like to make to all Adult Schools was given by Mr. Thompson to Stafford Street. He urged them to make haste and get their bowling green ready.

That seems to me a jolly good idea. Why not Adult School bowling clubs? There are two good public greens in the town, and several schools might be fortunate enough to have one of their own attached to the school premises. Think it over for next season. I am already conjuring up visions of healthy rivalry between the schools on Saturday afternoons. And it might do something to increase the numbers.

I very much regret to have to inform my friends that these are to be my last Adult School Notes. I have been informed that it is against the wish of the Sub-Union that they should appear. Why, I cannot say; but I will say that I shall miss my monthly chat with you. I might also mention that I have received the thanks of many friends in the movement who had informed me that they had greatly appreciated the notes. However, that is the position, and reluctantly I bow to the wish of those in authority. J.

TRAMWAYMEN'S MONTHLY MEETING.

The Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers' ordinary midnight meeting for August was of much interest to the members, a number of practical matters being discussed.

The Secretary stated he had not been able to arrange for the deputation appointed at the last branch meeting to meet the Tramway Manager (Mr. Luntley).

The reason for the deputation mentioned is to complain about the speeding-up that is being imposed upon the men. They are suffering keenly under this evil, and are uttering vigorous complaints concerning the rush process.

The meeting decided to ask that in future the straw caps to be worn should have a waterproof covering, so as to make it unnecessary for them to be laid aside at the end of the summer term; or, as an alternative, that covered fronts should be attached to all cars. The straw headgear is much more comfortable than the cloth.

Messrs. C. Sanders, W. Nash, J. Seddington, and J. Cook were elected delegates to the Midland District Council.

It was reported that the recent ballot on the question of time-and-a-quarter for Sunday work had resulted in an overwhelming majority for the proposal. It was resolved that the application for this concession be put off until next spring.

On behalf of the Benevolent Fund a prize drawing is to be arranged.

Sympathy was expressed with Mr. J. Sanders in his recent bereavement.

The Secretary said inspectors had not yet joined the Union, the two permanent-way men were still out.

I HAVE WATCHED THEM.

By Robert J. Moore.

I have watched them, silent, toiling—
These drear humans of the masses,
Shut in darkness and in sorrow,
While about them "God's" bright sunshine
Gleams in mocking and derision.
Ah, for them what means to-morrow!
Naught but toil and sighs and hunger,
Weak bent backs and dull dumb eyes.
I have watched them silent, toiling—
These drear humans of the masses.

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