

THE BRITISH WORKER

OFFICIAL STRIKE NEWS BULLETIN

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PRICE ONE PENNY

GREAT STRIKE TERMINATED

Trades Union Congress General Council Satisfied That Miners Will
Now Get a Fair Deal

HOW PEACE CAME

Telegrams Already Sent to All Unions Concerned to Instruct
Their Branches at Once: Miners Call Delegate Conference

The General Strike is over.

The General Council of the Trades Union Congress proclaimed this yesterday, having reached the conclusion, as a result of a number of conversations with Sir Herbert Samuel, that a satisfactory basis of settlement in the mining industry can now be formulated. The official announcement was issued by Mr. Arthur Pugh, after the General Council had been received by Mr. Baldwin and a number of his Cabinet colleagues.

The Miners' Federation Executive will report fully to a conference to be convened to-morrow.

The negotiations which led to the termination of the general strike were facilitated by the intervention of Sir Herbert Samuel, the Chairman of the Coal Commission.

Sir Herbert returned specially from Italy, where he was

T.U.C. ORDERS

The following notice was posted outside the T.U.C. headquarters yesterday afternoon:—

"May 12.—The general strike is being terminated to-day. Members on strike are, however, asked to await instructions from their own head offices. The T.U.C. is telegraphing to all head offices asking them to give the necessary instructions to their members. No exact time for the termination of the general strike can yet be fixed, in view of the varying circumstances of the different trades concerned, but head offices will instruct on this point. (Signed) A. PUGH, Chairman.

W. M. CITRINE, Acting General Secretary."

taking a short vacation, to ascertain whether his services could be utilised towards resolving the differences between the parties.

A number of informal conversations took place between him and representatives of the General Council, as a result of which the General Council reached the conclusion that a satisfactory basis of settlement could be formulated.

The Memorandum and the correspondence which is published in this issue indicates, in the view of the General Council, the lines along which negotiations can proceed to effect a solu-

tion to the many problems which the situation in the Coal Mining Industry has given rise.

The proposals, if approached and operated in a spirit of whole-hearted co-operation between all parties concerned, should result in a more equitable and durable relationship than has hitherto existed in the Coal Mining Industry.

The Movement came out in order to ensure a fair deal for the Miners. They are satisfied that that can now be achieved.

THE SUGGESTED SETTLEMENT

Sir Herbert Samuel's Memorandum suggests that coal negotiations should be resumed, and the subsidy renewed for a reasonable period as may be required for that purpose.

To decide wages and other disputes henceforth, a National Wages Board should be set up, on which there should be representatives of the two parties, with a neutral element and an independent chairman.

There is to be no revision of previous wage rates until it is clear that reorganisation of the industry, as proposed by the Coal Commission, will be effectively adopted.

A joint committee, or the National Wages Board, is to co-operate with the Government in preparing the legislative and administrative measures required.

After these points have been agreed and the Mines National Wages Board has considered every practical means of meeting such immediate financial difficulties as exist, it may, if that course is found to be absolutely necessary, proceed to the preparation of a wage agreement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

"Free and Unfettered Negotiation"

ENGINEERS STOP EVERYWHERE

Call Enthusiastically Obeyed

SHIPYARDS OUT

The call to all unions in the engineering and shipbuilding trades affiliated to the Trades Union Congress to reinforce the gallant "first line" had already been magnificently answered before the news came of the calling-off of the strike.

The response to the call to workers in the engineering shops and shipyards on the Clyde to come out yesterday was magnificent.

Mr. Harry Hopkins, the A.E.U. organiser, states that in his 30 years' experience he has never known the men so eager or enthusiastic as in this fight for a decent standard of existence. The withdrawal of labour from the marine shops and shipyards was, in his opinion, complete.

Barrow.—Withdrawal of the engineers and shipyard workers has added probably 4,000 to those already called out. Most of the large works in the town are stopped.

Blackburn.—Three thousand engineers on strike, affecting 20 foundries and engineering shops.

Bolton.—Textile and general engineers have joined the strike.

Carlisle.—Engineers and fitters at the large factories have stopped work.

Coventry.—All E.T.U. and Workers' Union members at the municipal electricity works are out.

Edinburgh.—Engineers ceased work last night. Complete deadlock rapidly developing.

Grantham.—A.E.U. men at Ruston and Hornsby's ceased work last night.

Huddersfield.—Engineers, accompanied by many non-unionists, ceased work to-day.

Bradford.—All engineers are out.

Hull.—Five thousand more men, including engineers and boilermakers, struck work to-day.

Ilkeston.—Stanton ironworks employees obeyed the call, and have lined up with the strikers.

Lincoln.—All engineering workers ceased work last night, and the greatest enthusiasm prevails.

Lowestoft.—Local branch of the A.E.U. called its members out to-day, only two being left at work.

Manchester.—A large section of the works of the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Company at Trafford Park have come to a standstill. About 4,000 men are affected.

Newcastle.—Reports show that 90 per cent. of the engineers on the Tyne came out this morning, and that their ranks will be added to considerably to-night. At Jarrow, the engineers, without holding a meeting, obeyed instructions to cease work. Altogether, the response has been magnificent.

Newport (Mon.).—Local engineers have loyally obeyed the call to strike.

Rugby.—With only one exception all members of the engineering unions, numbering 600, answered the strike call.

Sunderland.—All foundrymen and many engineers have joined the strikers' ranks.

GENERAL COUNCIL'S MANIFESTO

Praise for Loyalty and Discipline of Whole Movement

After the announcement of their decision yesterday, the General Council met at Eccleston-square, and issued the following statement to Affiliated Societies, Trades Councils, and Strike Committees:—

The General Council, through the magnificent support and solidarity of the Trade Union Movement, has obtained assurances that a settlement of the Mining problem can be secured which justifies them in bringing the general stoppage to an end.

Conversations have been proceeding between the General Council representatives and Sir Herbert Samuel, chairman of the Coal Commission, who returned from Italy for the express purpose of offering his services to try to effect a settlement of the differences in the Coal Mining Industry.

The Government had declared that under no circumstances could negotiations take place until the general strike had been terminated, but the General Council feels, as a result of the conversations with Sir Herbert Samuel and the proposals which are embodied in the correspondence and documents which are enclosed, that sufficient assurances had been obtained as to the lines upon which a settlement could be reached to justify them in terminating the General Strike.

The General Council accordingly decided at their meeting to-day to terminate the general stoppage, in order that negotiations could be resumed to secure a settlement in the coal mining industry, free and unfettered from either strike or lock-out.

The General Council considered the practicability of securing a resumption of work by the members in dispute at a uniform time and date, but it was felt, having regard to the varied circumstances and practices in each industry, that it would be better for each Executive Council itself to make arrangements for the resumption of work of its own members. The following telegram was dispatched to you to-day:—

"General Council T.U.C. have to-day declared General Strike terminated. Please instruct your members as to resuming work as soon as arrangements can be made. Letter follows.

"PUGH. CITRINE."

Throughout the negotiations and during the whole of the stoppage, the General Council have declared that they have been fighting to protect the Miners against an intolerable degradation of their standard of life and working conditions. It was with this object, and with this object alone, that the General Council assumed the grave responsibility of calling upon its affiliated organisations to unite in strike action to enforce the cancellation of the lock-out notices, and the withdrawal of the new wages scale posted in the mining districts.

No attack was at any time contemplated upon the established political institutions of the country, and it is a testimony to the loyalty and discipline of the Movement that disorders have been practically unknown.

The Unions that have maintained so resolutely and unitedly their generous and ungrudging support of the Miners can be satisfied that an honourable understanding has been reached.

The General Council accept the consequences of their decision with a full sense of their responsibility, not only to their own membership, but to the Nation at large. They have endeavoured throughout the crisis to conduct their case as industrial disputes have always been conducted by the British Trade Unions, without violence or aggression. The General Council feel, in taking the last steps to bring the crisis to an end, that the Trade Union Movement has given a demonstration to the World of discipline, unity and loyalty without parallel in the history of industrial disputes.

Yours fraternally,

ARTHUR PUGH, Chairman.

WALTER M. CITRINE, Acting Secretary.

JOHN HODGE'S MESSAGE

"I can say for myself and Arthur Pugh, that our men have rallied to the strike in a most enthusiastic manner. Calmness, courage, and trade union discipline will give us a splendid victory. Stand firm everyone!"—Message from Mr. John Hodge.

"GOLDEN CHARACTERS"

"The unblemished record of the Leicestershire miners in the last strike is written in golden characters in my memory," said the Chief Constable of Leicestershire, addressing a meeting of workers in the Coalville mining district yesterday.

HOW "B.W." WON THROUGH

Paper Trouble and Way It Was Overcome

MR. BALDWIN MOVES

A great many inquiries have been made the last few days about our paper supplies and how we have managed to appear every evening in spite of the Cabinet attempt to suppress us.

We were able to secure paper to carry on with when all we had was exhausted.

It was not quite the right size, but clever, resourceful management altered the machines to take it, and we went on with the assurance of having enough to last up to and including Thursday. At the same time we made every sort

713,000

The circulation of yesterday's "British Worker" amounted to 713,000 copies—514,000 were printed in London, and the rest at:

Manchester	100,000
Cardiff	37,000
Glasgow	30,000
Sunderland	20,000
Leeds	12,000

To-day, we expect to have a larger circulation still.

of effort to induce Mr. Baldwin to override the instructions given and to release the paper belonging to us at the docks and in a paper-mill.

These efforts were successful yesterday morning. Long before the news came of the strike being over, we received a message that we could have a number of reels.

At the beginning a police raid. Then the attempt to starve us of paper. But we came through both troubles successfully.

So all's well that ends well, and we thank our numberless friends for their kind anxiety on our behalf.

PRINTING TRADES.

The "British Worker" is asked to state that there will be meetings at 4 p.m. to-day (Thursday) of the representatives of the following organisations, all sections:—

Paper Workers, N.S.O.P.A.

Machine Managers, Stereotypers,

No resumption of work by members of the foregoing organisations until the meetings have decided when work shall be restarted.

All officials of the chapels of the above-mentioned unions are advised to attend; they will be informed of the respective places of meeting.

Miners' Thanks To Their Allies

PREMIER'S PLEA IN COMMONS

"Look Forward, Not
Backward"

NO MALICE

When word went round that the strike was to be ended there was great excitement in the House of Commons, and the floor and galleries were crowded in expectation of a statement by the Prime Minister.

Replying to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Baldwin said that the T.U.C. Council came to see him in the morning, and said that it had decided to call off the general strike forthwith.

"I said," continued the Prime Minister, "that it would be the immediate effort of myself and my colleagues of bringing about a resumption of negotiations between the parties in the mining dispute with a view to securing the earliest possible settlement."

"The only thing I would add at this moment is that the peace that I believe has been won, the victory that has been won, is a victory of common sense, not of any part of the country, but the common sense of the best part of the whole of the United Kingdom. (Cheers.)"

"And it is of the utmost importance at a moment like this that the whole British people should not look backwards, but forwards. (Cheers.)"

"We should resume our work in the spirit of co-operation, putting behind us all malice and all vindictiveness." (Cheers.)

DEBATE AT EARLY DATE

Mr. MacDonald said it must be obvious to the House that certain consequences of the statement of the Prime Minister were likely to happen at once—the application, for instance of the large spirit that had been indicated in what the Prime Minister had said, and he took it that it was in the interest of the House that it should be kept in close touch with the developments and subsequent events.

He asked the Prime Minister if he had considered the best time for a sort of survey of the situation, and for a fuller statement than he had been able to make.

The Prime Minister replied that he recognised a fuller statement would be necessary at as early a date as possible, but Mr. MacDonald would be aware that there was a great deal to be done, and many things to be thought out. He asked Mr. MacDonald to keep in touch with him. It would be impossible in the course of the day to state anything.

Mr. MacDonald: "I shall be glad to fall in with that suggestion, but much depends on how this position is represented. (Labour cheers.) I appeal to him to make arrangements, so that the House is kept in the closest touch with everything that is being done, and that this discussion should take place at the earliest wise moment."

Messages of sympathy continue to pour in at T.U.C. headquarters from all parts of the world. A great variety of United States unions have sent such messages, as have also organised workers of Argentina, Japan, South Africa, Georgia, Cuba, Mexico, Scandinavia, etc.

DELEGATE CONFERENCE TO-MORROW

Pits to Remain Idle Pending Delegates' Decisions

The Miners have expressed to the T.U.C. their "profound admiration of the wonderful demonstration of loyalty as displayed by all workers who promptly withdrew their labour in support of the Miners' standards."

Mr. A. J. Cook, the miners' secretary, sent the following telegram to all districts yesterday:—

"Miners must not resume work pending the decision of the national conference convened for Friday next at the Kingsway Hall, London, 10 a.m. Please send delegates."

PUBLIC STAGGERED BY FIGURES

How Owners' Demands Would Have Hit Lancashire

One of the outstanding features of the public meetings and discussions since the strike began is the eagerness of the public to learn the facts about miners' wages.

People knew in a general way that the wages were low and that the mine-owners had locked out the men to make them still lower. They had seen figures, but the crisis brought home to them the vital importance of those figures, and they are eager for every detail that can be given.

The *BRITISH WORKER* has each day sought to cater for that desire, and it has been a common sight in London to see crowds carefully studying the figures where enterprising newsagents and others had posted copies on their windows.

We have given details from South Wales, Northumberland and Durham. Let us to-day go to Lancashire, another of the Great British coalfields.

32s. 6d. a Week

The wage of the coal-getter, the highest-paid miner, is in Lancashire 9s. 6d. a day. The owners want to reduce that to 8s. 1½d. At the best that could only mean a wage of 44s. 8d. a week. Deductions amount to more than 3s. a week, so that the net wage would be barely over £2, even for a full week.

As a matter of fact, the miners have for a long time been allowed to work only three or four days a week, so that on the owners' terms the wage would be 24s. 4½d. to 32s. 6d. a week, less deductions!

The surface labourers' wage was 7s. 6½d. The owners demand that it should be 5s. 2½d.—for a full week 23s. 7½d.

Is there any wonder, when such figures are known, that public opinion is strongly against the mineowners and against the Government which supports them?

It will be recalled that when the negotiations were finally broken off by the Government, a proposal was put before the miners for a modified reduction, on condition that longer hours were worked.

The reduction would still have been substantial, and would come off wages that everyone agrees should bear no reduction.

No Extra Hours

But even the Coal Commission was emphatically against any increase of hours, pointing out that

"it would make the working day of every British miner longer by half an hour to an hour than that of miners in any European coalfield of importance except Upper Silesia."

That is not all. The nominal working day of seven hours means a daily average underground of 7½ hours. But in many mines the time is much longer.

In one colliery in the Pemberton district of Wigan, the miners were working nine hours and 20 minutes bank to bank, and in most collieries in the district the miners are working more than eight hours a day bank to bank.

PRINTERS REFUSE

Paris "Daily Mail": Efforts to Increase Output Fail

Efforts to increase the output of the Paris edition of the *Daily Mail* by printing extra copies in the offices of French newspapers, have been thwarted by the action of French trade unionists.

In the *Matin* office the machine men, and in the *Comœdia* office the compositors, refused to touch the *Daily Mail* job.

NO NEWSPAPERS

District Council's Free Library Decision

Aberdare District Council has refused to function the Coal Emergency Order. The decision was come to on the motion of the Labour members, who out-voted their opponents by 15 to 4.

Another resolution adopted was that no newspapers or publications be permitted in the Free Library rooms. This decision has been adversely criticised by ratepayers, and it is stated that a public protest meeting is to be called.

HELP FROM THE "MIDDLE CLASS"

Striking Expressions of
Sympathy with Strike

LIBERAL GIFTS

One of the most surprising and gratifying aspects of the Strike has been the friendliness and generosity of so many who are unconnected with it and who in previous labour struggles have almost solidly taken the other side. Here are some illustrations of this:—

In such typical "middle-class" suburbs as Lewisham and West Norwood, large open air meetings have been addressed nightly by trade union speakers. The attendances at these have consisted chiefly of City workers, not connected with the Trade Union Movement; they have shown their sympathy, not only by applauding the speakers, but also by contributing liberally to the collections.

At a meeting on Sunday, at Parliament Hill, Hampstead, another suburb of the same character, clerks and typists eagerly gave their sixpences and shillings to the collection, which amounted to £25.

When Mr. Thomas spoke on the same day, at the Bedford Palace, a crowd of people who had been unable to get in thronged the street outside. Someone suggested a collection to help the strike.

"Collect £2 10s. and I'll buy it for £5," said a well-dressed man, apparently a flourishing business man. The transaction was quickly made possible.

A negro came forward and handed up a pound note. "Helps strike," said he, in broken English.

Weekly subscriptions for the strike funds are being collected at Welwyn Garden City, which has a mainly "middle-class" population. An M.P. living there states that the subscription list for the first week showed a total of £70.

"I'm an Australian, just arrived on a visit to the old country, and I want to help the miners. Where shall I send my cheque?" This was a telephone call received at the offices of the *BRITISH WORKER* yesterday. It is typical of many messages from overseas sympathisers.

"Middle-class" women everywhere, mothers of boys who fall in the war, have been greatly impressed by the numbers of strikers who are wearing war medals. You hear them say, "This is not a strike against the country."

At Preston a gift of £50 has been made to the Strike Fund, clearly not by a proletarian!

RUMOURS DENIED

The committee of the *Daily Express* House Chapel, representing more than 600 employees of that paper, wish to deny rumours current to the effect that they were applying to return to work. "We remain solid behind the miners until an honourable settlement has been arrived at," writes the committee.

At a municipal by-election on Tuesday, the trade union candidate was returned for the Humber Ward of Grimsby for the first time on record.

Scheme for Mines Settlement

It is proposed that any new agreement should, if practicable, be simpler in form, and that

it should fix reasonable figures, below which the wage of no class of labour for a normal customary week's work should be reduced in any circumstances;

if any new adjustments should be made, provision should be made for such adjustments by the Wages Board from time to time.

So long as unemployed miners are available, there should be no recruitment of other labour over 18 years of age.

Measures should be provided to deal with workers displaced as the result of the closing of uneconomic collieries.

The following letters have been exchanged between Sir Herbert Samuel and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress:—

May 12th, 1926.

Dear Mr. Pugh,

As the outcome of the conversations which I have had with your Committee, I attach a memorandum embodying the conclusions that have been reached.

I have made it clear to your Committee from the outset that I have been acting entirely on my own initiative, have received no authority from the Government, and can give no assurances on their behalf.

I am of opinion that the proposals embodied in the Memorandum are suitable for adoption, and are likely to promote a settlement of the differences in the Coal Industry.

I shall strongly recommend their acceptance by the Government when the negotiations are renewed.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) HERBERT SAMUEL.

Sir Herbert Samuel,
London.

May 12th, 1926.

Dear Sir,—

The General Council having carefully considered your letter of to-day and the memorandum attached to it, concurred in your opinion that it offers a basis on which the negotiations upon the conditions in the Coal Industry can be renewed.

They are taking the necessary measures to terminate the General Strike, relying upon the public assurances of the Prime Minister as to the steps that would follow. They assume that during the resumed negotiations the subsidy will be renewed and that the lock-out notices to the Miners will be immediately withdrawn.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ARTHUR PUGH, Chairman.
WALTER M. CITRINE, Acting Secretary.

THE MEMORANDUM

The following is the memorandum referred to in Sir Herbert Samuel's letter:—

1. The negotiations upon the conditions of the coal industry should be resumed, the subsidy being renewed for such reasonable period as may be required for that purpose.
2. Any negotiations are unlikely to be successful unless they provide for means of settling disputes in the industry other than conferences between the mineowners and the miners alone. A National Wages Board should, therefore, be established, which would include representatives of those two parties, with a neutral element and an independent chairman. The proposals in this direction tentatively made in the Report of the Royal Commission should be pressed and the powers of the proposed Board enlarged.
3. The parties to the Board should be entitled to raise before it any points they consider relevant to the issue under discussion, and the Board should be required to take such points into consideration.
4. There should be no revision of the previous wage rates, unless there are sufficient assurances that the measures of reorganisation proposed by the Commission will be effectively adopted. A Committee should be established as proposed by the Prime Minister, on which representa-

tives of the men should be included, whose duty it should be to co-operate with the Government in the preparation of the legislative and administrative measures that are required. The same Committee, or, alternatively, the National Wages Board, should assure itself that the necessary steps, so far as they relate to matters within the industry, are not being neglected or unduly postponed.

5. After these points have been agreed and the Mines National Wages Board has considered every practicable means of meeting such immediate financial difficulties as exist, it may, if that course is found to be absolutely necessary, proceed to the preparation of a wage agreement.
6. Any such agreement should

- (i) if practicable, be on simpler lines than those hitherto followed.
- (ii) Not adversely affect in any way the wages of the lowest-paid men.
- (iii) Fix reasonable figures below which the wage of no class of labour, for a normal customary week's work, should be reduced in any circumstances.
- (iv) In the event of any new adjustments being made, should provide for the revision of such adjustments by the Wages Board from time to time if the facts warrant that course.

7. Measures should be adopted to prevent the recruitment of new workers, over the age of 18 years, into the industry if unemployed miners are available.

8. Workers who are displaced as a consequence of the closing of uneconomic collieries should be provided for by

- (a) The transfer of such men as may be mobile, with the Government assistance that may be required, as recommended in the Report of the Royal Commission.
- (b) The maintenance, for such period as may be fixed, of those who cannot be so transferred, and for whom alternative employment cannot be found; this maintenance to comprise an addition to the existing rate of unemployment pay under the Unemployment Insurance Act, of such amount as may be agreed. A contribution should be made by the Treasury to cover the additional sums so disbursed.
- (c) The rapid construction of new houses to accommodate transferred workers. The Trades Union Congress will facilitate this by consultation and co-operation with all those who are concerned.

ORDER EVERYWHERE

General Council Congratulates Strikers on Their Conduct

Every observer of the situation, both British and foreign, is impressed by the good order everywhere maintained.

It constitutes a record for a dispute of this kind.

It shows how thoroughly the workers accept the insistence of the General Council that this is a purely industrial dispute.

The General Council congratulates trade unionists on their magnificent response to its appeal for discipline.

See that the record is kept up.

CANNIBALISM ?

One of the sights of London yesterday was an exquisite limousine labelled "For food," and bearing a cargo of substantial men and women.

MEN OF U.S. HELP US

American crews have refused to handle any of the pumps on four American oil ships arriving at Tilbury.

THE DAILY HERALD

will immediately

RESUME PUBLICATION

and will continue its loyal support of

TRADE UNIONISM AND LABOUR

equally with

THE BRITISH WORKER

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