

The Bon-Accord and Northern Pictorial

Special Strike Issue No. 4.

WHAT THE WIVES ARE THINKING.

Whatever labour leaders may say in Parliament or out of it, their rhetoric is of small importance when set over against the eloquent and forceful remarks that the strikers' wives and other womenfolk are indulging in at home. Given a clean cut issue and a humane objective, the working-class housewife will be as brave as Helen and far more patient than Job. She will scrimp and scrape and starve rather than let her man down or weaken his faith in the cause that has sanity and justice behind it. But she won't stand nonsense; her shrewd, practical instincts cut down to bed-rock facts and demand account and reckoning with realities.

This is one main reason why the general strike is petering out. The "wee wifkie" has been quick to understand that it is going to help nobody, and can lead nowhere but to new hardships, poverty and debt. She knows what it costs to keep the home going, and the price she and her children have had to pay again and again for long spells of enforced idleness. When there is no help for it, when the breadwinner is tramping the streets honestly searching for work and cannot find it, there is never a murmur of discontent; only quiet courage and steadfast uncomplaining and—But now!

The general strike is a different matter. This man of hers is going about with his hands in his pockess when he ought to be working. He is idling away the time, not because there is a lazy bone in his body, but because some people in London have found it convenient to use him as a pawn in their game. He wasn't even given the chance of talking over the matter at home. And he comes to the wife at term time with twenty shillings of Union money in his hand instead of the £2, £3, or £4 he should be laying on the table on pay day! Why? God knows why, and perhaps also Mr. Cook and Mr. Thomas; but wife does 'nt, and that is where the real trouble begins.

This strike will end with a sudden jerk presently because the women are already heartily wearied of it, and intend to get their home life back to sense and security.

What's He up To?

What is our dear old friend and brother, Mr. Lloyd George, trying to be at? Lord Oxford and Asquith, Earl Grey, Sir John Simon, and other Liberal stalwarts have come out into the open and taken their stand boldly on the side of the Government as the sole constitutional authority in the the State. Mr. Lloyd George contents himself with asking nagging questions in the House of Commons. It is an inglorious part for a great leader to play at such a moment. But there is more in it probably than meets the eye. "L.G." is a very clever little man.

The Little Devil.

Compositors, linotype operators, machinemen, and printers' devils are steadily dribbling back to work. It is natural such an intelligent body of men should be among the first to recognise that the policy of keeping the country in the dark doesn't square with the traditions of the British Press. The Printer's Devil has hitherto been universally worshipped as an angel of light; and his recent impish behaviour may be forgiven if he promised never to be such a naughty little devil again.

To Err is Human.

The Government announces that it has the "country well in hand." The last country well we saw was a hole in the ground; but as the Government says it has it in hand, we were doubtless mistaken—dreaming in a palm grove.

"T.U.C."

The return of that £250,000 cheque to Moscow was a right thing to do. The Soviet now knows the "T.U.C." doesn't mean "Truckles to Unwashed Communists," either in unholy Russia or elsewhere.

Up a Tree!

An American on Deeside has been charming the natives with a tall story of having frequently climbed a tree in his back garden 'way back in Idaho which was no less than 200 feet high. At the present moment some of our trades union leaders are up a bigger tree than that; but they are not asking anybody to make a song about it.

TOWN COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS.

Emergency Committee Given Full Powers to Act.

A special meeting of the Town Council was held yesterday afternoon when it was decided by 17 votes to 14 to grant powers to the already appointed Emergency Committee to deal with all matters affecting Corporation departments arising out of the present crisis.

The Lord Provost led the debate and pointed out how fair they had been in regard to the question of the cessation of certain municipal employees by refraining from taking the lead presented by other cities. This was principally a reference to the tramwaymen's attitude, and he said they had been very patient with them but if further action were required then he thought that it should be within the powers of the Emergency Committee to act accordingly. Baillie Edwards seconded.

Baillie Beaton opposed the motion. He emphasised the necessity for impartial deliberation on the part of the Councillors, who were there as representatives of the citizens, and not elected to show factional consideration. The legality of the stopping of the superannuation scheme in his opinion was doubtful, as the men were not dismissed but were merely on strike. These men were showing a loyalty to their fellow-men and this was their only fault. Councillor McIntosh seconded the amendment, and dwelt on the situation's far reaching results if more volunteer labour was employed. Students, who were occupying the public seats, came in for his loud condemnations, and he said that their present actions would go down to posterity. They would be remembered, and their strike behaviour might become a blot on their escutcheon, for whether they went to pulpit or practice Trade Unionists would not forget.

Other speakers including Councillors Shepherd, Brown, Hepburn and Carry, made known their views on the matter, but on the vote being taken it was decided to give the Committee the required powers. This may have effect of a ultimatum being put to the tramwaymen.

Constabulary Reserve for Aberdeen.

On the instructions of the Government, the Aberdeen Territorial Force Association is to raise a Civil Constabulary Reserve. Men wishing to join should apply to the following headquarters—Scottish Horse Headquarters, Great Western Road, North Silver Street Drill Hall, Hardgate Drill Hall, and Woolmanhill Drill Hall where full particulars will be given.

Labour Activity.

According to a message broadcast by the B. B. C. yesterday, there is reason to believe that peace moves are taking place beneath the surface. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald had an interview yesterday morning with the Miners' Executive before going on to a meeting of the General Council of the T. U. C. Mr. J. H. Thomas, after a visit to the House of Commons, returned hurriedly to the General Council headquarters, and Mr. E. Bevin, the dockers' leader also came back post haste in a motor car. It was officially stated by the T. U. C. General Council that there was no development and there was no information regarding intervention by Sir Herbert Samuel, chairman of the Coal Commission. A member of the Miners' Executive said that nothing tangible or concrete had yet been placed before the Miners' Executive. Interviewed after the meeting of the Executive of the Miners' Federation, Mr. A. J. Cook said numbers of people have been approaching the miners' officials with a view to getting a settlement of the deadlock. "I desire to report again that peace is possible at any moment on terms which will give economic security to the miners.

T. U. C. Report.

In an official communique issued by the T. U. C. General Council yesterday, it was stated that the solidarity, morale and enthusiasm of the men on strike are as great as ever. A considerable proportion of the men on strike who did not originally respond to the strike call have now joined their fellow workers, and the branch reports generally are to the effect that a solid front is being maintained.

STRIKE ENDED.

It is officially announced
that the General Strike
has been called off.