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Miners to Vote on Coal Strike

London, March 27.—After a full meet-
ing of the Miners' Federation this morn-
ing it was decided to take an immedi-
ate ballot among the men as to whether
or not they desire to accept the Govern-
ment's minimum wage bill and re-
turn to work. The miners' delegates
will return to their respective districts
at the earliest moment so that no time
may be lost in ascertaining the result
of the ballot. The text of the ballot
paper is as follows: "Are you in favor
of resuming work pending the settle-
ment of the minimum rates of wages in
the various grades by the district boards
to be appointed under the Minimum
Wage Act?" The more moderate mem-
bers tried to get the federation to in-
sert a recommendation on the ballot
paper, but it was decided to leave the
men a free hand.

A bare majority of votes will be
sufficient for the acceptance or rejec-
tion of the position. William Edwin
Harvey, a miner member of the House
of Commons, who represents the senti-
ments of most of the leaders of the
men in the federation area, says that he
intends to tell the 40,000 miners of
Derbyshire "the wage bill has become
the law of the land so that there can be
no question of accepting its provisions
or otherwise. They must be made the
best of."

The Miners' Federation met to-day to
discuss the general situation, and to con-
sider a proposal for submitting to the
miners the question of balloting whether
the minimum wage bill should be accept-
ed by them. The coal owners also con-
ferred, but the result of their discus-
sions has not been made public.

There appears at the present moment
little likelihood of an immediate settle-
ment, and the question now being dis-
cussed is what action the government
will take as to the passage of the mini-
mum wage bill. The cabinet hopes that
the miners will seize the excuse
offered by the enactment of the mini-
mum wage bill for returning to work.
Even if this hope should be realized, it
will be necessary to take measures to
relieve the great distress, and it is un-
derstood that the government has al-
ready decided on an effective method of
carrying this out. The protection of
the miners who resume work must also
be provided for, and this it is thought
would necessitate calling out the army
reserves.

It is also likely that the government
will establish a national wage board,
with an independent chairman, to con-
sider and determine on proposals for the
introduction of the minimum bill rates
of \$1.25 for men and 50c. for boys,
on the understanding that, with these
two points settled, all the miners will
return to work while negotiations are
proceeding for fixing minimum rates for
other grades of workmen.

Already troops are in a state of pre-
paredness in Wales, and at any moment
their services may be required to pro-
tect the miners at the Brynkinalle col-
liery, who have been working for sev-
eral days. An attempt to interfere
with them was made last night. Early
this morning the miners connected with
the collieries of the surrounding dis-
tricts commenced to march in a body
toward Brynkinalle, and they were
quickly followed by a force of police re-
serves.

Trouble is also feared in Scotland,
where many men have already returned
to the pits and others are anxious to
follow their example. The feeling in
Scotland may be understood when it is
explained that at many of the collieries
the hewers of coal employ their own
labor, whom they pay about 88 cents a
day. Should the minimum of \$1.25 be
established the hewers will find their
profits considerably curtailed.
The depletion of the union funds is
also having considerable effect on the
miners. In the county of Cumberland
the union has only \$20,000, in Warwick-

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the market to-day can compare with it. It
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tonics and does it so quickly that users are
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NOTICE!

All those in arrears for Water and
Sewer rates are hereby notified that
in order to ensure a continuance of
the service, it is necessary that the
said arrears be paid without further
delay.

A. G. FIELDS, H. W. BOURNE,
Supt. Collector.
Woodstock, N. B., Dec, 14, 1911.

29tf

shire \$30,000 in South Wales \$30,000, in
North Wales \$40,000, and in Bristol
\$20,000 in hand, while in Northumber-
land, Lancashire, Leicestershire and
Cheshire there is only one week's pay-
ment left. In Durham, Derbyshire and
Nottinghamshire the miners' unions are
in a strong position. In the two former
counties the unions still have about
\$1,700,000 each, and in the latter \$850,-
000 in their treasuries, but the miners
there are opposed to any pooling of their
funds with the poorer unions. In spite
of this depletion of funds, the extremists
among the miners are determined to
fight to the bitter end. V. Hartshorn,
the leader of the Welch miners, says
that the strike has now only really com-
menced and mass meetings will be held
to organize the workers in their organ-
ized resistance.

Conditions throughout the country are
growing worse from hour to hour.
London, which has not felt the strike
thus far, except for the increased price
of coal and the curtailment of the rail-
road services, has only ten days' supply
of fuel left, and thousands of small
factories in and about the city must
soon close their doors, throwing the
whole order of things out of joint.

NEW YORK, March 27.—A cable to
the Tribune from London this morning
says:

The long and wearisome negotiations,
in which Premier Asquith has been en-
gaged with the coal owners, on the one
hand, and the miners, on the other
came to an end yesterday, and the na-
tion now stands face to face with that
crisis which Sir Edward Grey, at the
beginning of the strike, declared would
be the greatest catastrophe in England's
national history. The government's
minimum wage bill, passed its third
reading in the House of Commons
early this morning by a vote of
213 to 48. There was a scene of great
excitement and Premier Asquith was
loudly cheered by all members. The
House of Lords reassembled at 2.50
o'clock this morning to receive the bill
which, on the motion of Lord Herschell,
passed the first reading. The proceed-
ings were purely formal and the House
then adjourned.

The bill will doubtless be passed in-
to law today. The delay in passing the
bill was caused by cabinet dissensions
Lloyd George and Sydney Buxton favor-
ed the two shillings and five shillings
concession, but both the Lord Chan-
cellor and Lord Morely threatened to
resign if any figures were put into the
bill. While Mr. Asquith was supported
by a large majority of his colleagues, it
was necessary to make a final effort for
peace between the owners and the
Miners' Federation. When the negotia-
tions failed the bill, without any rigid
minimum rates, was the last resource,
and it was taken up not only without
enthusiasm, but with apprehension,
that a considerable group of Radicals in
sympathy with Mr. Lloyd-George, might
join the Labor members.

The prime minister's anxiety and
weariness were evident when he ex-
plained the situation to the House of

KEEPING YOUNG
Oatmeal is Said to Ward Off Age—
Often 20 Years

Two noted scientists, by experiments on
animals, have proved that youthfulness de-
pends on the thyroid gland. And that some-
thing in oats seems to feed that gland.

It appears that old age can be deferred
many years by caring for this gland. The
main care is to feed it, and the proper food
is oats.

Oats contain more energy food, more
food for the brain, more food for the nerves,
than any other grain that grows. And now it
seems that they also serve to keep one young.

But common oatmeal isn't good enough
for such an important diet. The rich,
plump grains alone are used in the making
of Quaker Oats. They are selected by 62
siftings, and only ten pounds are obtained
from a bushel.

Quaker Oats means just the cream of
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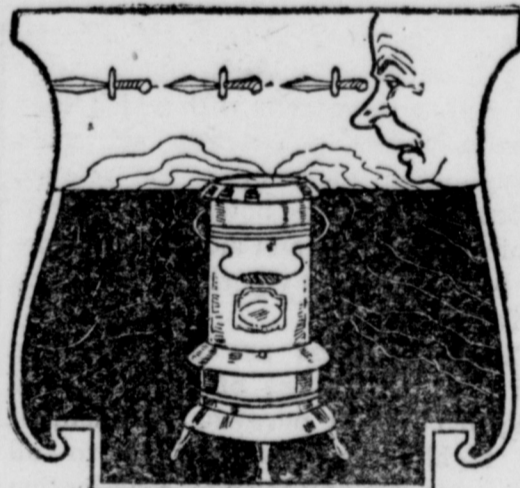
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DINING-ROOM STOVE—Be-
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Commons. The division in the cabinet
itself had become an intolerable source
of weakness, and the feeble bill, which
neither the masters nor the men, want-
ed, was thrust upon parliament when
there was no expectation in any quarter
that it would facilitate a settlement.

What is really operating to bring
about a restoration of confidence is the
exhaustion of the miners' organization.

The strike funds have run dry, savings
bank deposits have been drawn upon,
shopkeepers are cutting their credits
and pawnbrokers form the only class in
the mining districts, which are doing a
profitable business.

Non-unionists are likely to lead the
way back to the mines as soon as there
is a prospect of adequate protection,

Continued on page three.