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STRIKE OF FIVE MILLION WORKERS IN THE OLD COUNTRY IS NOW ON; A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION

London, May 4—A strike in all the great industries throughout the country began at midnight. It affected close on to 5,000,000 workers, including more than 1,000,000 miners, who had already given up their labors in the coal fields.

Another day of suspense, of hopes and fears ended with a complete breakdown of last-hour negotiations between the government and representatives of the Trades Union Congress who had been delegates as spokesmen for all the men. Throughout the day and night every effort was put forward to bring about an agreement and even at a late hour there was promise of a renewal of the negotiations which gave the anxious nation hope that a way out would be found. A final conference developed out of the debate in the house of commons but it is still difficult to ascertain exactly what happened in the house, although it is believed that Mr. Baldwin and the other ministers had further interviews with the negotiating committee of the Trades Union Council.

A dramatic session of the House of Commons which lasted until midnight, the hour of the general strike, and an even more dramatic meeting between Premier Stanley Baldwin and J. H. Thomas, the Labor leader, failed at the final moment, just when hope of settlement had been raised.

Final Decision Reached.

Behind closed doors, Baldwin and Thomas reached their final decision, while parliament, millions of workers and an apprehensive nation awaited the word.

From the locked room came a summons for A. J. Cook, secretary of the Miners' Federation, and leader of the million mineworkers on whose behalf the general strike was called.

No Hope of Peace.

Word ran like wildfire throughout the House of Commons and to the throngs jamming parliament square outside that this meant peace, a settlement for which everyone concerned had been hoping.

But when Cook emerged from a brief conference with the Premier and Thomas, he announced:

"The strike is on."

Thomas, tears streaming from his eyes, came out to confirm his associate's announcement.

"We failed. The strike must occur," he said.

It was five minutes past eleven when Cook and Thomas made their announcement that the strike was on and the news came with stunning force to members of Commons who were waiting in the smoking rooms and corridors.

For hours, everyone had "known" that a settlement was imminent. Sir Alfred Mond, the industrialist, had said so and Winston Churchill had been cheerfully optimistic.

Thomas Broken.

J. H. Thomas, secretary of the National Union of Railway men, was a stooped and broken man as he emerged from the committee room and headed for the crowd in the smoking room.

Immediately he was surrounded by a clamorous throng.

"What's the news?" they demanded. Tearfully and with a gesture of despair, the workers' leader answered:

"The strike is on. I am broken."

But the mob had left him, rushing and elbowing their way to inform the world.

Crowd Thick Outside.

Meanwhile, outside parliament the crowd had become so thick that street traffic was seriously impeded. These persons were not aware of what had taken place until after 11.30 p. m.

They knew the House was in session, for the customary beacon light did not show above "Big Ben," the clock on the tower. But they did not see any one emerge from the various exits of the House of Commons, for the members had returned to discuss the situation informally.

Buses and trams in the neighborhood were halted by the throng and every one stood up, craning necks to see what was going on.

The crowd first learned what had happened from Herbert Smith, the brawn Labor leader, with a Yorkshire brogue, who said wearily and dispiritedly as he left the House of Commons:

"It's on. I've nothing to say except that I'm going to bed."

The scenes at Westminster were reminiscent of July, 1924. Downing Street was completely impassable and the crowds lining both sides of Bridge street, leading to the Houses of Parliament and Parliament Square itself, were estimated at many thousands silently but anxiously watching the comings and goings of the members of parliament and other prominent personages.

A. J. Cook, secretary of the Miners' Federation, on leaving the House shortly before midnight said to the newspaper men: "They have failed; the general strike is on tomorrow."

Similar scenes were witnessed around the headquarters of the Trades Union Congress in Eccleston Square, which throughout the evening was besieged by volunteers offering their services. Late in the evening from the room where the council was sitting came the strains of "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" and the singing continued for several minutes.

It seems as though a general stoppage of the press will be immediate as some of the London papers were only able to issue early editions for the country, the printers quitting at midnight.

War-Time Measures.

All the war-time routine measures so far concerns vital supplies are being put into effect and there will probably be a war-time regulation for the protection of the public. Theatre managers held a meeting last night to discuss whether they should close down during the strike period, but no decision was reached.

A section of the crowd outside of Parliament amused itself for nearly an hour by singing "The Red Flag" and cheering for the miners. Another section vigorously sang "God Save the King." It looked at times as though trouble were brewing, but the police managed to keep the crowds moving and thus prevented disorder.

Cook's Statement.

A. J. Cook, in a statement, said: "The Government right up to the last has taken the side of the owners and has interpreted the Royal Commission's report to mean an immediate reduction of wages for the miners. That we have refused to accept and will continue to refuse by the help of the whole trade union movement."

"The only terms of peace that are possible are terms that will ensure the status quo for the miners in the coal-fields while reorganization is taking place."

Premier Baldwin today told the House of Commons that as a result of the order for a general strike the government found itself challenged by an alternative government.

The Premier declared that the labor leaders organizing the strike were threatening the basis of orderly government and were nearer to proclaiming civil war than Great Britain had been for centuries.

Leaders Lose Control.

He became convinced, he asserted, that A. Pugh, chairman of Trades Union Congress, and his colleagues were no longer in control of the situation within their own ranks.

The Premier said that it was no use discussing the facts of the seriousness of the situation with words that conceal the truth. He declared that he did not believe that there had been a thorough consultation with the rank and file of the Trades Union Council before the power of calling a general strike had been put into the hands of a small group of executives in London. This, he felt, was a gross travesty of every democratic principle.

Done With Subs'ly.

Premier Baldwin said that continuance of the governmental subsidy to the coal industry was out of the question.

"The only light hearts in the country today are those who envy or hate us, because they see the whole of democratic freedom entering on a course which if successful can only substitute tyranny," he said. "It is not wages that are in peril but freedom of our constitution."

"Everything for which I have worked for two years, and for which I care at this moment has been smashed to atoms, but that does not take away my faith or courage in my aims."

BOOTLEGGERS EXCHANGE MET

Manchester, N. H., May 4—This city's bootleggers have established an "exchange" in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

A story of midnight gatherings in the shadow of a large tombstone where local bootleggers receive their allotments from run-runners who import the contraband was told in court yesterday by Clasis Augued.

After was on trial on a liquor charge preferred after the discovery of a quantity of liquor buried just outside the cemetery wall. He declared that at times there were so many automobiles at the cemetery that the lineup resembled a funeral procession rather than a gathering of bootleggers.

BUYERS WHIMS SHOWN AT AN ANTIQUE SALE

New Orleans, May 4—It may have been the rain dampening the ardor of buyers but at an auction of antiques here a bub table, declared by the auctioneer to have been the property of Mme. de Pompadour, went under the hammer for \$90. The auctioneer added that the authenticity of the table had not been questioned since 1764.

The sun was out when the jewelry in the collection was offered and an English ring watch, a tiny watch set in a man's gold ring, brought \$165. An inscription in the faded cover of the box told how Preval, the watchmaker, had made it "expressly for King George the Third."



TENDERS FOR COAL AND COKE

Sealed tenders addressed to the Purchasing Agent, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, will be received by him until 12 o'clock noon (daylight saving), Tuesday, May 25th, 1926, for the supply of coal and coke for the Dominion Buildings, in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Specifications and forms of tender can be obtained from G. W. Dawson, Chief Purchasing Agent, Department of Public Works, Ottawa; Luke Daye, Clerk of Works, Halifax, N. S., and W. W. Allingham, Resident Architect, St. John, N. B.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Department, and in accordance with departmental specifications and conditions.

The right to demand from the successful tenderer a deposit, not exceeding 10 per cent of the amount of the tender, to secure the proper fulfilment of the contract, is reserved.

By order,

S. E. O'BRIEN,

Secretary

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, April 28, 1926.

CONDUCTOR'S GOOD RECORD

Pittsburgh, May 4—Completing fifty-three years service as a railroader, during which he traveled an estimated 2,681,917 miles without a wreck, Michael J. McCarthy, Pittsburgh and Lake Erie passenger conductor, has retired.

McCarthy, whose home is in Youngs town, Ohio, began his railroad career at the age of 17 as a waterboy.

DIED

FARRAR—At her home, Elland Ranch, Pennhold, Alberta, on May 3rd, 1926, Bessie Hale, beloved wife of John Farrar, Esq., and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. George T. Taylor of Fredericton, N. B.

Dr. Gerrard

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Nervous People

You do not experience the slightest hurt and as this preparation does not contain cocaine or other poisonous drugs, it does not cause pain or soreness afterwards.

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Made of the richest of cream, its high butter fat content, its smoothness of texture and splendid flavor makes ARCTIC the outstanding Ice Cream.

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For our opening day, Tuesday, our dealers will give each boy buying a cone of ARCTIC, a Sport Cap Free.

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NORTH DEVON: A. W. Coombes, Druggist; J. E. Mazerall, Baker.

SOUTH DEVON: A. A. Grant, Grocer; Flowers & Neill, Grocer; W. G. Manzer, Grocer.

BARKER'S POINT: John Flowers.

NASHWAAKSIS: T. W. Sansom General Store.

MARYSVILLE: P. G. Long, H. A. Galle, Wm. P. Wilson, Newton W. Stafford.

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