

## THE HON. JOHN BURNS.

## First Workingman Representative Ever Admitted to the British Ministry.

("An Admirer" in London Daily Mail.)

Whether the Liberal Ministry has a long life or a short one, it will be notable for the inclusion in it of John Burns, of Battersea—the first workingman to be given a seat and a portfolio in a British cabinet.

John Burns has been before the public since the year 1878, when he spent a night in the police cells for the crime of public speaking on Clapham Common. From that moment he has progressed slowly, steadily, not always with the goodwill of the majority, but always with the goodwill of those who knew him, for what he is—honest, strong self-reliant, answering in his adherence to what he believes to be right.

No man has fought more persistently than John Burns in the arena of public life, or with a more consistent aim. No one, probably, has had to face greater temptations. When one remembers the fate of other "Labor leaders" the more the marvel grows that this little man from Battersea, with the big head, big heart, and sympathies often akin to those of a woman should have steered his way clear through the rocks and shoals that beset the poor man who ventures on the troubled seas of political life.

Born forty-seven years ago in Wandsworth, the son of a Lowland father and an Aberdeen mother, John Burns started life with more vitality and more brains than pence, and more bull-dog, holdfast courage than the average.

Obstinacy has never been a fault with Burns. Realizing the better kind of doggedness in his blood, he once said to me, "There's one thing I've learned in the House of Commons. Stonewalling is as useful sometimes in politics as cricket. I've chafed at it often enough, but that same obstinate objection to change which is so characteristic of the British nation and the Conservative party, has often prevented the hasty realization of immature ideals, which would have been more harmful in their incomplete state than the old abuses they sought to replace."

Always ready to fight his own battle, Burns went to work in Price's candle factory in Wandsworth at the age of ten. Pence being a consideration the offer of a few shillings a week made him a "boy in buttons" a strange lapse into a state of subjection which would be curious if one did not know the motive of loyalty to a struggling mother which prompted it. As a rivet-boy at iron works in Vauxhall he soon found occupation better suited to his physique, and a chance, at fourteen, to apprentice himself to a Millbank engineer.

In 1877, being out of his apprenticeship and ready for any adventure Burns went as foreman engineer to the west coast of Africa. For twelve months he stood the heat and braved the perils of the delta of the Niger. Mr. Parkin, a fellow-engineer, has told how Burns dived for five hours among sharks searching in the muddy waters for the lost propeller of a steam launch, how he slew a large snake with a shovel, and saved a drowning man at the risk of his own life. Here, too, occurred the incident of the finding of Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" buried under the foundations of an engine hut at Akassa, which belongs to his intellectual history.

Still bubbling over with vitality which no African sun could exhaust, Burns returned to Battersea in 1878 and made his first acquaintance with the police at Clapham Common.

Burns married Miss Charlotte Gale the pretty daughter of the Battersea shipwright, who stood in the crowd, and after a short honeymoon, made the grand tour of the continent in search of the material upon which he was to base his theory and practice of political life.

When people speak and write of John Burns they think too often of the days of "Bloody Sunday" and, later, of the Dock Strike, and wonder how the Man with the Red Flag can have gained the breadth of view and knowledge of affairs necessary to

enable him to take a broad outlook upon life. They forget the broadening influence of six months' hard study in France, Germany, and Austria, the study of a man whose wits were sharpened by the knowledge that he had but a hundred pounds in the world, and that when that was gone he must return to England. They forget also that from his boyhood's days Burns read, assimilated and adapted to his own circumstances the teaching of Robert Owen, John Stuart Mill, Carlyle, Ruskin, and all the men who were reckoned intellectually among the giants of the nineteenth century.

To-day his library in the little house on Lavender-hill fills the walls of two rooms, and there is not a stupid or useless book in it. On these walls you may read the story of John Burns's life and the evidence of that remarkable faculty for acquiring and using knowledge which has all along been one of the mainstays of his political career.

Battersea has been the home, politically as well as socially, of Burns. In its park, Burns became a power, working his brain, his body, and his lungs, to persuade his fellow-workmen to take in hand the regeneration of themselves and their class. Then he suddenly made a mark on the world outside. Speaking at the Industrial Remuneration Conference in 1884, he electrified an audience which included Mr. A. J. Balfour, by the vigor, picturesqueness, and common sense of his views. "Moralize capital!" said Burns. "You might as well try to moralize a boar-constrictor or tame a tiger." As the direct consequence of leaving his work to attend this conference, John Burns lost his job as an engineer. He was at that time twenty-six years old.

Suspended between a sense of what he ought to do for himself and what he ought to do for his class, Burns found himself out of employment in the critical days of 1886. Men were shy of employing an engineer who had at this time fought unsuccessfully for a seat in Parliament as the Social Democratic nominee for West Nottingham. For seven weeks he tramped from "shop" to "shop" looking for work, sympathizing at every step he took with the thousands of less capable men in like plight with himself. Then came Trafalgar-square. A meeting, convened for the purpose of expounding their gospel, was turned into a riot. For his share in the meeting Burns was arrested, and a speech saved him—the speech which he delivered from the dock prior to his acquittal.

Out of this preliminary scuffle arose the events of "Bloody Sunday," November 3, 1886. Burns held to the right of the people to meet in Trafalgar-square, the police denied it and prepared to defend the square. It became a battle between half-armed and unarmed men. Two were killed, many injured, and Burns and Cunningham-Graham forced their way to the base of the Nelson Column.

Tried at the Old Bailey, John Burns made another "great speech," and went to Pentonville to meditate over it for three months. Keeping his head and his saving grace of humor, he came out of jail more popular with his own people than ever, and in two years was elected to a seat in the first London County Council. His first year's work at Spring Gardens was broken by the great dock strike of 1889. Tower Hill became his rostrum, and the suffering wives and children of the dock-laborers his most powerful weapon of attack. It was a humane fight. When a man preaches honesty, sobriety, self-sacrifice as the essential weapons of a fight, it is difficult to accuse him of desiring to promote revolution and disorder. So the dock strike passed without bloodshed, and Burns as its leader justified his claim to the possession of that quality of moderation which goes to the making of a statesman.

Of his other qualities he has given proof since his election to the House of Commons in 1895. At St. Stephen's his character has never been impeached, his word doubted, or his honesty of purpose questioned.

ed eastward, but there were still about sixty million bushels in western elevators.

## FREDERICTON JUNCTION.

Fredericton, N.S., Jan. 9.—Today the new school house of this district was formally opened for educational purposes. Mr. Samson B. A., is principal. The intermediate is in charge of Miss Mitchell, of Lincoln. Miss Myra Alexander teaches the primary department. A large number of the citizens gathered to see the commencement exercises. Inspector Bridges, came out from the capital in the early train to be present. He congratulated the trustees upon the magnificent house they had provided for educational purposes. Speeches were delivered by S. D. Alexander, Dr. Murray, Rev. J. B. Daggett, and D. W. Mersereau.

While several guests were celebrating the diamond wedding of a couple named Bader, at Königswalde, Germany, the bride was seized with syncope and dropped dead at the table. Within ten minutes the aged widower also fell dead.

Sometimes a cold settles in the bowels. The pain pierces like a lance. Get rid of it promptly by taking Perry Davis' Painkiller in sweetened water. There is but one Painkiller, Perry Davis'. Refuse substitutes.

## THE HERALDS FASHION PLATE.



## THE WINTER NIGHTIE.

Wee toddlers are very apt, as many mothers can testify, to throw and kick off their covers during the night, the result of which means a cold, unless they are well protected by a warm pannellette nightie such as here illustrated. French flannel or the cheaper flannellette are the materials

found best for these. A plain white flannellette is used for this one, cut with the Mother Hubbard yoke and the full bishop sleeve and buttoned down the back. A narrow band goes about the neck, finished with a frill of embroidery, the sleeve finished in a like manner. The little pannellettes come well down over the feet, and some patterns there are which have feet and pannellettes cut in one.

## A CLERGYMAN'S MISTAKE

A Moncton Baptist clergyman, a late arrival from the United States, had a rather unique experience on Sunday; likewise two congregations. The evangelical pastors had agreed to exchange pulpits on Sunday next, at the close of the week of prayer, but the clergyman in question conceived the idea that the exchange was at the opening of the week, and having been assigned to the Wesley Memorial pulpit, which is in the west end of the town, wended his way thither at an early hour. He reached the pulpit in good time to see most of the congregation file in, and finally the regular pastor arrived. It would be difficult to say which was the most confused, but explanations followed and the good Baptist brother hastily took his departure for his own church, to find that his tardiness in arriving had begun to excite some comment there.

## RUNAWAY CAR.

Winnipeg, Jan. 9.—(Special)—During high wind here yesterday, a C. N. R. freight car standing on a siding at Glenella, was blown to the main line and went thirty-two miles before coming to a standstill at Neepawa Junction. The car went through Gladstone at a high rate of speed, giving the inhabitants quite a scare.

## CANNIBALS DEVOUR BRITISH DOCTOR.

Liverpool, Jan. 9.—The steamship Olinda, of the Elder Dempster line, which arrived here recently, brought a horrible story of cannibalism in Nigeria, of which Dr. Stewart, of the Southern Nigerian government, was the victim.

The doctor, accompanied an expedition to the interior, but was separated from the main body. With only a few carriers he proceeded to Calabar river. He was riding a bicycle, and being outstripped by the carriers, missed the main road and ran into the village of a hostile tribe.

The carriers, returning, found Dr. Stewart's bicycle and other parts of his body. Joining the main force they gave information as to their discovery. The investigation which followed showed that the body had been terribly mutilated and there was undoubted evidence that it had been partly eaten.

It is stated that the village is only two days' march from Calabar river. It is known that the natives often indulge in cannibal feasts.

## A DAVID-GOLIATH STORY.

Columbia, Mo., Jan. 9.—Mitchell Shadrick, a giant seven feet in height, was an instant kill: near here by an eighteen-year-old boy, Henry Jonas, who caught him down with a stone no larger than a walnut, thrown from a distance of forty feet.

Shadrick had struck at a younger brother of Jonas', and, it is said, had picked up a club with the intention of assaulting Henry Jonas. The boy picked up a small stone and threw it at the giant. It struck him behind the left ear and after running about in a circle for several minutes he man toppled over dead.

No coffin was long enough to contain the body of Shadrick, and it

was found necessary to make one to order.

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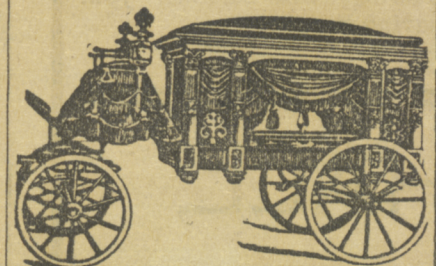
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## RAILWAYS FOR THE WEST.

Mr. Whyte Explains C. P. R. Development Policy.

Montreal, Jan. 9.—Mr. William Whyte, of Winnipeg, assistant to the President of the C. P. R., who is in Montreal on business in connection with the annual appropriation, in an interview, spoke as follows of general conditions in the west:

"Next summer will be an active one throughout the western country. The C. P. R. will build at least 250 miles of road. Some of it will be for new branches and some on extensions already under construction. Settlers are pushing farther and farther back into the new country, and the company's policy is to open up this territory wherever the outlook for the future renders it advisable, and to act as pioneers wherever possible. Gangs of men are even now working on the construction of double tracks at various points between Winnipeg and Fort William, for this has been so far a very favorable winter for such work. About fifteen hundred men are there altogether, and by the time the crop of 1906 is ready to move we expect to have at least a hundred miles of double track ready. Even that much would greatly assist in moving the crop, particularly if the yield is as heavy as it was last season."

Mr. Whyte said that this winter in the west had been favorable for handling traffic. To date forty-eight million bushels of wheat had been moved