

Milton  
Moorlands Rd., Camberley, Surrey, 100  
2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1912

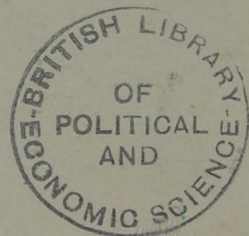
Sir, - I find that some of the so-called  
Liberal newspapers are savagely cross  
with you, accusing you of upsetting  
the Premier's nervous system, & what  
is still worse, injuring the cause of the  
Suffragettes. You think of that "injuring  
the cause of the Suffragettes." I would  
not like to see their cause injured, as  
these Suffragettes, who in our prisons -  
English men's prisons mind you - are  
undergoing the filthy & injurious forcible  
feeding, have the blood of the martyrs  
in their veins. Neither they nor you  
are understood by the editors & proprietors  
of newspapers who are living for position,  
& money which in this Christian England  
of ours always accompany position.  
Had the Premier & those who support  
him lived in England during the  
Reformation times, they would, in my  
opinion, have been Protestants with  
the Protestant monarch & Catholics  
with the Catholic monarch. They have  
none of the martyr's blood in their veins.  
And they call themselves Englishmen  
Yours gratefully T. B. Milton

# POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

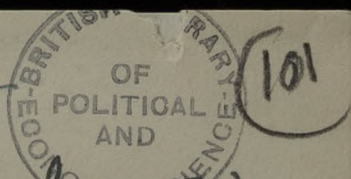


Mr. G. Lansbury, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
London.



M449

No reply expected.



From Mrs. Saul Solomon,  
Address - LES LUNES,  
98, SUMATRA ROAD,  
WEST HAMPSTEAD, N.W.

To George Lansbury Esq. M.P.  
July 2, 1912.

"I will give thee a Crown of Life":

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Though perhaps late,  
I feel assured that you  
will not think my feelings  
of profound indebtedness  
and admiring regard are  
least amid the expressions  
of unequalled thankfulness  
which have already reached  
you in almost countless  
numbers. I have been  
overworked ever since I came  
out of prison two months ago,

(102)

and the recent cruelties perpetrated upon our noble leaders, and my fellow-comrades also, have completely overpowered me & made me ill with the inexpressible humiliation & horror that Englishmen should be - not barbarians - for these rarely torture women, & - if they ever do - it is for a crime. Our government has proved devilish & nothing less! What are we coming to?

Well, so much for the Britishers: -  
"I - the heir of all the ages, in the foremost ranks of time"!!!  
What irony it is! How can McKenna ever hold up his head again? And who will say of him, "This was a man"!  
Nay - a friend is human hope.

But it was Mr. Asquith who led the way.

The whole affair is disgusting & hateful  
and to you has been granted by Heaven  
the signal honour of redeeming the  
good name & vindicating the character  
of the House of Commons.

May God abundantly bless and  
reward you! is the prayer - not  
only of my unworthy self, but  
of thousands & thousands in our  
dear Country - both of men and women.

Your grand historical protest has been  
heard over the world, and its influence  
will not cease until brutality hides its  
shameful head, and Forceful Feeding is  
for ever banished from our prisons, and  
Political Prisoners are entitled to Jewish Divisor  
treatment by the law of the land.

At present the Home Office pulls the strings  
& manipulated prison rules as any capricious  
fancy may determine at the moment. Hence  
arise grave injustices. Miss Marsh is still ill treated  
because of the shocking spite against her. Miss Vera Westworth  
is nearly done for on similar grounds, &c. We ask for justice  
& will be asking for it. Go on, dear Friend & nobleman.  
"Fight the good fight" - The Prize will be yours. Your grateful admirer,  
Gerrard M. Solomon

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.



WILLIAMS & SON, LTD., LONDON.

# POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

2030

103

Most Rev. Randall Thomas Davidson (Archbp. of Cant)

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1/2d. being reckoned as 1/2d.; and if it be found that there was an inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

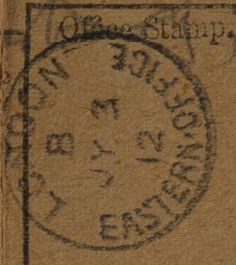
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Parliament St.

Charges

to pay

5. d.



Handed  
in at

2.19.15

Received  
here at

2.37.15

TO

Lansbury M.P. Bow

Have received your telegram and you know how keen and deep is our sympathy with the starving sufferers and our desire to help them. The Bishops of London and Southwark and

Inquiry respecting this Telegram.

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.



# POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

BEER & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1/2d. being reckoned as 1/2d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Office Stamp.



Most Rev. Randall Thomas Davidson  
Archbp. of Canterbury; 1848 — 1930  
Handed in at

Charges } s. d.  
to pay }

.M., Received here at

12 27/8

TO {

(2)

St Albans and their clergy are doing their utmost to give help we have alas no power to compel settlement  
Archbishop of Canterbury

Marion Coates Hansen  
(Mrs. Frederick Hansen)

" Red Cottage ",  
Nunthorpe. S. O.

3rd July 1912.

George Lansbury Esqr., M.P.

L o n d o n.

Dear Sir,

I was instructed to forward to you the following resolution which was carried unanimously at a meeting of the Middlesbrough Branch of the Independent Labour Party held on July 1st, viz:-

" The members of this Branch of the I.L.P. desire to  
" dissociate themselves entirely from the sentiments expressed  
" in Mr J. R. Macdonald's letter appearing in the press on June  
" 26th with reference to the militant suffragists and protest  
" strongly against his most uncalled-for criticism ".

A resolution was also passed unanimously at the same meeting congratulating Mr George Lansbury heartily for the most sympathetic and courageous stand he had taken in the House of Commons on behalf of the imprisoned suffragists ".

Yours sincerely,

Marion Coates Hansen,

*M.C.*

Hon. Sec. I.L.P.



London  
July 1912

General Secretary, I.L.P.

London

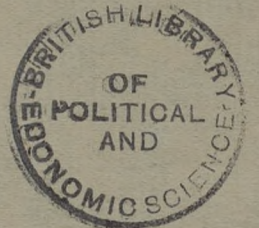
I was instructed to forward to you the following resolution which was carried unanimously at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.L.P. held on July 1st, 1912.

See vol. 28.a, fos. 73-76 for a letter from Mrs F.W. Pethick Lawrence, dated 3 July 1912

"The I.L.P. should support the Government in their policy of..."

John Galsworthy

I.L.P.



M449

Rev. Edwyn Buchanan 19 Moore Street. (106)  
Hooper Machpoll. SS.

Dear Sir

July 3 1912

allow a Christian priest + a Socialist  
to offer you congratulations on your courageous  
outburst on behalf of the women last  
week. As a rule I detest 'scenes' but  
I feel this was an outburst so feminine,  
+ so desperately needed that it was

most opportune + effective.

With all good wishes for your upland  
work  
Yours fraternally  
Edwyn B Hooper



M449

(107)

The Hospital

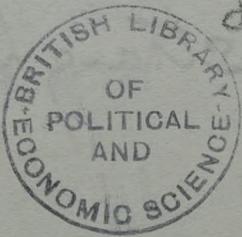
Mary Lindsay

Lindsay

Pittingbourne

Kent.

4<sup>th</sup> July '12.



M449

Dear Mr. Lambury

First as a woman

& next as a suffragette who had been through the "hunger strike"

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your manliness of Tuesday. It is helping us

of Tuesday. It is helping us

to realize there are at least  
some men who are white + straight  
in their political life.

The last time we cheered you was  
with voices weak from hunger +  
exhaustion in Holloway exercise  
ground after your visit there.  
I have regained my freedom  
+ am back at my profession + have  
no one to cheer you with so must  
write my thanks + say with others  
in my heart "I thank God for

Mary Lindsay  
Lanbury.

4 July  
1912

(108)

God bless you

Yours very sincerely

(Nurse) Mary Lindsay  
W.P.F.U.

## Politics and the Wage System.

### II.

It is at least curious that those who intellectually remain entangled in the wage system also remain entangled in the political system. If you cannot see through the real meaning and intent of the wage system, you cannot see through the essential bankruptcy of politics as understood to-day. This is only another way of saying that politics is used by the meliorist to ameliorate the harsher conditions of wagedom—to ameliorate, never to abolish. As we have already proved that economic power precedes political power, it follows that the pursuit of politics cannot fundamentally transform the economic conditions. The title-deeds remain with the possessing classes. But the real struggle is to obtain them. The most that politics can do is to modify the conditions that surround the title-deeds. Thus the Fabian programme, inspired by Mr. Sidney Webb, never hints at effective expropriation; it would humanise factory conditions, lay stress upon public health, mitigate destitution, reduce the hours of labour, impose a minimum wage—anything and everything save the imperative thing which is possession and control of the means of national and individual life. But we have further discovered that all these measures, each in its own way, actually strengthens the grip of the possessing classes and yet more securely validates their claims to the title-deeds. Parliament, by means of factory acts and regulations, humanises the conditions of factory life. The result is that labour grows more efficient, and consequently more efficiently produces surplus value and more of it for the holders of the parchments. The same effect is produced by improving the public health. It is good economy, operating in the interests of those legally and socially permitted to exploit labour. It is much more remunerative, and infinitely more pleasant, to exploit good human material rather than incompetent human material. The mitigation of destitution is also good economy for those who can benefit by it. A minimum wage, as we have shown time and time again, has precisely the same effect; it justifies the exploiter in rejecting damaged human material and exploiting only the best available labour. To this indictment of social reform there is absolutely no answer. Nor can the politicians explain away not merely the relative but the actual decline in wages, notwithstanding a generation of social reform. The Insurance Act will obey the same law. It is a very good thing for the employers. Who then can doubt that it is worse than foolish, it is criminal, to look to the political machine to abolish the wage system? Foolish, because it is a blunder; criminal, because it is one of those blunders that are crimes.

A striking instance of the truth of these contentions is found in the engaging personality of Mr. George Lansbury, M.P. We frankly confess that this gentleman holds a warm corner in our editorial heart. This may be a confession of weakness on our part. Many of our friends complain that our judgments are harsh, that our criticisms are cold and inhuman, that we are wanting in warmth and sympathy. We can only reply in the words of Zarathushtra, that we fight now so that later our hands may be free to bless. We would like to bless Mr. Lansbury. He waged a bonny fight against the Insurance Act, and we are grateful to him for it. But we want him to be consistent. Here is a little sketch of him which we read in the Press last week:—

For a time Mr. Lansbury was hon. secretary of the Liberal Association for Bow and Bromley, and he has told me what first impressed him with "the necessity for something more than orthodox politics" was this: "When canvassing in one of the very poor districts of Bow a woman came to the door dressed only in a sack. A hole had been cut at the top, and two slits at the side served for the arms. She asked me, with an oath, what was the good of a vote for her and her unemployed husband when every scrap of their clothing had been pawned; there was not a piece of furniture in the place, and nothing but starvation stared them in the face? With all the scorn she could command she bid me clear out. That incident pulled me up at a halt,

and from that day to this I have tried to study the condition of the people and to find out how politics could help the workers to win social justice." It was this little incident, Mr. Lansbury said, that really drove him out of the Liberal ranks into Socialism.

Impersonally considered, this little story is a synopsis of opportunist Socialism during the past thirty years. We ask Mr. Lansbury to tell us in what way has his devotion to politics emancipated this unhappy woman? Mr. Lansbury realised that "something more than orthodox politics" was needed to meet such a desperate case. What is that "something more"? Has he achieved it? Can he achieve it in the political sphere, if it be "something more than orthodox politics"? We can rely absolutely upon Mr. Lansbury's honesty of purpose, and accordingly we invite him to tell us what he conceives that "something more" to be. The information he could give on this point would be a most valuable contribution to our present inquiry. And, at the same time, would Mr. Lansbury tell us how it would be possible to emancipate the woman in the sack without disturbing the existing wage system? The woman in the sack, like Markham's "man with the hoe," is a portent, a symptom, and a symbol. What has she to do with politics or politics with her? Is her condition, au fond, political or economic?

When Mr. Lansbury spoke of "orthodox politics," he almost certainly meant conventional politics. He meant that a new political party must come into life that would pursue unconventional or unorthodox political methods. He meant by that a Socialist party. But Mr. Lansbury is a member of the Labour Party, which we know is a non-Socialist party. Is Mr. Lansbury alive to the fact that it is an orthodox or conventional party pursuing orthodox or conventional political objects on precisely the same lines as the other existing political parties? If he doubts it let us remind him of one or two simple facts. First, the recent manifesto, obviously inspired by Mr. MacDonald, M.P., calling for increased political activity and decreased industrial activity. Mr. Lansbury, as a member of the I.L.P., is a party to this reactionary document. Secondly, how can he justify the extremely lukewarm attempts made by the Labour Party to secure for Mr. Tom Mann the same prison treatment as that accorded to the W.S.P.U. prisoners? By every test Mr. Mann was more distinctively a political prisoner than any of these women. Mr. Lansbury's indignation at the treatment of the Suffragettes led to a very pretty little scene in the Commons last week. But why not an equally insurgent display on behalf of a labour leader? We can tell Mr. Lansbury why. The Labour Party does not like Mr. Tom Mann. He is not respectable. A little jack-in-office named Pointer, a whip of the Labour Party, said quite frankly that Mr. Mann was a crank who was best locked up. What this little creature said openly was what the rest of the Labour Party said privately. Above all things, the Labour Party must be respectable, conventional, orthodox. The Suffragettes, although they break windows, are after all highly respectable and have friends in high places. Theirs is the escapade of high-spirited young folk, well bred and well connected. They must be treated as we treat young undergrads who have been out in a rag. But as for Mr. Tom Mann—bah!—he is only a common workman, or something like it; certainly not of the same class, birth or breeding as the Suffragettes. Little Pointer cannot stomach such a vulgar fellow. Like the woman in the sack, little Pointer is also a portent and a symptom—or, to use an American colloquialism, he is a "pointer." We invite Mr. Lansbury to look at little Pointer through a microscope. He will discover some interesting and significant things.

To revert to our previous classification, the Suffragettes, even without a vote, are "active" citizens; those for whom Mr. Mann speaks, although possessing a vote, are "passive" citizens. The money that runs the suffragist agitation is the product of these "passive" citizens' labour. The Labour Party, true to its "passive" instincts, concluded that anything was good

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B 12

enough for Mr. Mann, but the women were quite another pair of shoes.

That the Labour party is safely "orthodox" is proved beyond cavil in a book just issued by Mr. J. M. Robertson, M.P., entitled, "The Meaning of Liberalism." This official Liberal tells us that "the Labour Party has exercised a useful forward pressure on the Liberal Party, and in so doing has been an invaluable ally of the Radical section. The practical ideal is that this pressure should usefully continue." We must have said something like this at least a thousand times, but we were supposed to be prejudiced against the Labour Party and were not, therefore, believed. Mr. Robertson knows. Will Mr. Lansbury explain?

Now let us consider the situation in which the Labour Party necessarily finds itself as "an ally of the Radical section." It can be found in Mr. Robertson's book, but our purpose will be equally well served by quoting from Mr. James Douglas's critique of it. Mr. Douglas tells us that he is "not happy unless I can digest my NEW AGE every Wednesday morning." He complains that we always stop short just at the exciting moment. Mr. Douglas must exercise a little patience. We are developing our case as quickly as prudence permits. He prefers Mr. Robertson to us because "Mr. Robertson's method is deadly in its exposure of the uncritical and impracticable character of Socialism. He shows that the cause of its incoherence is its inability to realise clearly that all social reform is a social function." So is beer-drinking or mending a pair of trousers. Mr. Douglas evidently felt that he did not know quite what he meant, so he proceeds to quote Mr. Robertson. "The amount of co-operative faculty—faculty as distinguished from mere aspiration—required to conduct a wholly socialised society is enormously greater than anything yet evolved in any society whatever." Mr. Douglas is lost in admiration at this cryptic utterance and ecstatically exclaims: "It would be interesting to see any reasoned answer to the argument which Mr. Robertson develops on these lines." This is what comes of a Belfast Ulsterman seeking to explain the meaning of a Scotch logician. Let us then gently whisper in the willing ears of the Belfast man that this cryptic comment is only a verbose way of saying that human nature and Socialism exclude each other. We heard our grandparents urging this very argument before we were breeched. Fancy Mr. Douglas being caught with that chaff!

We come to the bones of the business, however, when Mr. Robertson assures us that "production for profit will assuredly continue for centuries, profit being not merely the conditions of the furnishing of liquid capital, but the test of industrial efficiency. Fluid capital is about as far from the stage of collective management as the tides. Society will in the near future deal with capital as it deals with marriage and the family—not communalise it, but prescribe for it legal conditions. And the capitalist class will share in the framing of the conditions." What does this mean in plain terms? That the wage system will continue for centuries; that rent, interest, and profits must indefinitely continue; that fluid capital cannot be communalised. (Incidentally, in this connection, the use of the term "fluid" is amusing and, of course, foolish.) Mr. Robertson's ideal is "the skill of the organiser using the fluid capital of the rich." We shall have a great deal to say upon the alleged skill of the organiser. Both the "skill" and the "organiser" are myths: the present industrial system evolves a sort of skill and a sort of organiser, both being butts for the scorn and contempt of every serious thinker.

To a party holding such views, the Labour Party, including Mr. Lansbury, are allied. Please observe how admirably the coalition works out. The Radicals, as we have seen, do not believe in any fundamental economic change; they are content to "prescribe the legal conditions." With them, politics has nothing to do with the economic structure of society. If, therefore, they can keep the Labour Party in line with their schemes of social reform, all goes well. But to the Labour Party, which declines to tamper with the wage system and seeks only what politics can give it, this

alliance is equally acceptable. Thus it comes about that those high-souled and immaculate Scotsmen, J. M. Robertson, M.P., and J. R. MacDonald, M.P., can with a clear conscience pursue their petty political careers, what time wages are falling and Mr. Lansbury is sadly pondering "the something more" and the true meaning of "unorthodox."

## "Insurance in Action."

By J. M. Kennedy.

WHAT is to be the fate of the "Pall Mall Gazette"? Nominally a Conservative paper, its support of Liberal principles becomes more and more noteworthy every week. The two classic instances, perhaps, are its support of the principles of the Insurance Act and of an elected House of Lords. In a previous article I had occasion to mention an example in connection with the Insurance Act: the South-West Manchester election was fought on it; but the "Pall Mall Gazette" attributed the defeat of the Liberal candidate to Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment, for which nobody in the constituency cared two straws, and admitted somewhat grudgingly that the Insurance Act had some slight effect in deciding the result.

Presumably the editor established this policy of supporting Liberalism while professing Conservatism, and other departments of the paper have fallen into line with it. The Parliamentary writers have learnt their lesson, and so, apparently, have the reviewers. In the issue of June 27, under the heading of "The Insurance Tangle," one "S. B. J." deals with two books, "Social Insurance in Germany, 1883-1911," by W. H. Dawson, and "The Path of Social Progress," by Mrs. George Kerr. It seems to be a hurriedly written review, and one or two of the sentences in it will not stand strict parsing; but the attitude displayed is clear enough. The writer believes that the Insurance Act will "prevent" something or other, therefore it meets with enthusiastic approval, at any rate, in principle.

The public conscience has been stirred at last by the logic of events. The lesson has been driven home that preventive action is the most valuable and the cheapest. . . . In Germany prophylactic measures win more and ever more attention. Preventive work is also educative—another advantage. It improves the moral of a nation. Men and women come to estimate their own and their children's health at something like its true value. . . . Prudent Englishmen do not shrink from the burden of national, any more than they do from that of private, insurance. If they did they might be admonished by Mr. Dawson that the German impositions, which are cheerfully borne, cost twice as much as ours will, unless some grievous error has been made in calculations. . . . The Insurance system in Germany is to be regarded as a great measure of social hygiene. . . . The medical men are very dissatisfied with their treatment and rate of pay. They do not get nearly so much as our doctors have refused with contempt. On the broad question, it is well understood by now that what is objected to in England is not National Insurance. We object to being rushed into a scheme that has not been discussed, which nobody understands, and which is left to work out its own salvation, at what cost of money and injustice only time can tell. The vanity of one man has been considered, and not the needs of a nation.

It is not clear whether that last sentence refers to Mr. Garvin or to Mr. Lloyd George; but assuredly the nation has suffered sufficiently from the vanity and ignorance of both. Here, however, we are more directly concerned with the mis-statements in this review. If "S. B. J." thinks that "what is objected to in England is not national insurance," he cannot know much about the people of this country. Not merely the details, but the essential principles, of the Insurance Act have raised feelings of irritation comparable to those which ultimately found a vent in making Cromwell Lord Protector. And it is flatly untrue to say that the German impositions are cheerfully borne. The Germans, especially the North Germans, are carefully disciplined, and they are ready to accept almost without a murmur anything decided upon by the Government but a generation of State insurance is proving too muc

Saturday <sup>Annie</sup> Lansbury Hammers Wt. (110)

Dear Dad. 6 July 1912  
You are travelling this way;

this was Hammers Time, give  
you a sort of biographical paragraph.  
says you began public life 30 yrs ago,  
then you were 6 months, started Holloway  
Bay & his or 3 other things then you got  
Church, and then "but" (Catholics).  
and a further mention of a few other  
more some gentle things, with other  
then you belong to Hammers. Have  
Capped it by a little sketch of your  
and Dad for a new paper & something  
you believe two Lords. 1880 don't  
is sound. I'll end it on on  
today. There will be an early quote  
when you actually arrive here. You'll have  
to give them something Church & Revolution

7th July Swinhope House

<sup>9th</sup> Shores Bay  
Mrs. Arthur H. Alington Lines (111)

Sir you are a brave man  
fight for a young cousin of  
mine. forcibly fed for a privilege  
breaking down with neuralgia  
Dropsical above the torture for  
principle. which also so few  
men can even understand  
she is only twenty-two. has  
been in prison three times  
and like Lady Constance Lytton  
will bear the same as her  
poorer sisters. and gain nothing  
by her pretty looks and  
position. Her name is  
Isabelle Potbury. only two  
others besides herself are  
being kept in Holloway  
These cowards who dare  
not even protect working  
men from injury by sending  
troops to march along the  
streets to overawe cowards  
but would rather women  
and children starved. The  
Country is rising you know



112

8 July 1912

Written.

No. 4.

Q.5.7.1912.  
A.8.7.1912.

Mr. Lansbury.

Mr. McFenna.

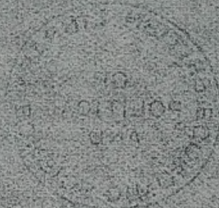
The number of prisoners convicted of window breaking and received in prison in the months of March and April was 203. Of these 132 served their full terms with such remission (if any) as they earned under the prison rules. 71 were discharged before the end of their sentences. It is not desirable, nor would it be in accordance with constitutional usage to state in each case the grounds on which I advised His Majesty to exercise the Prerogative of Mercy, but I may say that 49 were released on medical grounds. None of these prisoners now remain in prison. At the end of last week there were nine still serving sentences of six months' imprisonment, but, as all of them had served the greater part of their sentences and as they had added very much to the severity of their punishment

Lansbury

8 July 1912

(113)

by refusing food and attempting to starve themselves,  
I felt justified in advising the remission of the  
remainder of the imprisonment in each case.



Kate Palmer

114

5 Lansdowne Road  
Hansworth.

July 8. 12

To Mr. Lausbury.

Dear Sir.

I was out with  
a party of Women a week  
ago, and we were talking  
over the events of the week.

We thank You Sir.  
for your protest, and rejoice  
that you are able to see  
beyond and through the  
militant tactics, and to  
realize that the motives  
which prompt these are  
lofty and pure.

One of my colleagues  
said: "It's splendid! A man  
like that - gives you fresh faith

in MEN!" She was right. 115

Thanking You! and  
wishing You long life and  
health to enable you to  
run, always, a straight course  
for high principles.

I am

Yours faithfully  
Kate Palmer

Peggy Scott

(116)

44 Casketown Rd  
W.

8. 11. 12

July

Dear Mr. Lawbury

I am sending  
"weekly Dispatch" of

you in which  
article appears

"Trade Union For Wives."

I made use of

your kind permission

to put your name  
to it as I wrote  
down exactly what  
you said to me.  
They lost the article  
in the office - that  
is how it was so  
long in appearing  
& why I had not  
time to let you  
re-visit it.

Thank you very  
much for your  
kindness, also for

the interesting time  
my cousin & I  
spent in the "Ladies  
Gallery".

Please accept enclosed  
stamps which I owe  
you for wiring me  
at my request.

Yours very truly

Feggy Scott

P.S. When you have <sup>further</sup> ideas  
for helping women, please  
let me know! P.S.

Independent Labour Party  
I. L. P. Club & Institute

9/7/12

137 High Street

Harlesden

Dear Lansbury

118

We have had the "Clarion" Van here this week. Councillor Ebery as Varner. We have had some of the finest meetings that I have seen 2 & 3 hundred orderly listeners & Saturday a Lawyer - debated with him & was torn to rags, Trades Unions here are getting members in swarms our club & the B.S.P are making new recruits fast. Now on Saturday & Sunday huge crowds attended the meetings which lasted till 10-30 at night

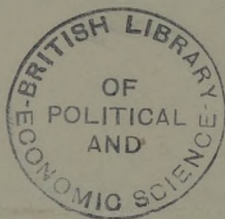
that these dogs who stifle  
Freedom of Speech were  
stopped. I questioned I. X. why  
he did this he said meetings  
must stop at 10. So I said  
well why 10-30 Saturday &  
Sunday. No reply. We are  
getting too hot here for them  
we have 4 Socialist  
organisations in the district  
& a booted of Trades -  
Unionism & they are after  
me on account of my Militant  
attitude with demonstrations  
meetings etc. I have written  
you on this subject.

On Monday Last night the Largest  
Crowd yet seen we had to hear  
him expose Liberalism & the  
cheering & applause he got was  
deafening. But, sharp at 10  
a force of Police appeared  
got in amongst the crowd  
a began to push people  
about & make disorder in fact  
if some of these dirty dogs  
had got a Bashing they  
asked for it. Could you ask  
the question in the House  
why this is allowed the  
Sergeant's Number who -  
organised this disturbance  
is I. X. I think it time



as the others would be too respectable & afraid to ask a question. I think a few of those Lib Labs, Thomas & Co will soon get their quietus Railwaysmen at Reading & the Junction have had enough of them.

Yours for  
the Cause



M449

E. Wright  
Secretary

Our Members here are anxious for you to raise this question I hear that no Bye Law exists under the Middlesex County Council Re-meetings

Annie Kenney

120

# VOTES FOR WOMEN.

## The Women's Social and Political Union.

OFFICE: 4, CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND, W.C.

Committee.

MRS. PANKHURST,  
Founder & Hon. Sec.

MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE,  
Hon. Treasurer.

MRS. TUKE, Joint Hon. Sec.

MISS CHRISTABEL PANKHURST,  
Organizing Sec.

MRS. WOLSTENHOLME ELMY.  
MISS ANNIE KENNEY.

MISS MARY NEAL.  
MISS ELIZABETH ROBINS.

*All Communications,  
unless marked "private" will be opened  
by one of the Hon. Secretaries.*

*Auditors: MESSRS. SAYERS & WESSON.  
Chartered Accountants, 19, Hanover Square, W.*

*Bankers: MESSRS. BARCLAY & CO.  
19, Fleet Street, E.C.*

*Publishing Office: THE WOMAN'S PRESS,  
156, Charing Cross Road, W.C.*

*Newspaper: "VOTES FOR WOMEN."*

*Telegraphic Address—WOSPOLU, LONDON.  
Telephone 2724 Holborn (three lines).*

9th July 1912.

George Lansbury Esq., M.P.,  
103, St. Stephen's Road,  
Old Ford, E.

Dear Mr Lansbury,

Thank you very much for your letter with Mr McKenna's reply to your question. It is a tremendous relief to all of us to have the long sentence prisoners out. You will know of course without my telling you what we feel about your part in the whole affair.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Wp. Annie Kenney.

W. Z. B.

Telephone No.  
1673 HOLBORN.

F. Mackenzie

(121)

Royal Free Hospital,  
Gray's Inn Road,

London, 9.7.1912  
W.C.

Dear Sir,

I enclose a cheque for £20.0.0-  
for your dockstrike relief fund.  
Are you in want of women  
workers for the distribution of  
food or any other work?  
I cannot despise of all my  
time as I am a medical  
Student - but if you have any  
use for half-timers I am  
sure some of the Students

would like to come & help.

Yours Sincerely

F. Mackenzie



M449

Montagu  
Sir Stewart Samuel  
(1856 - 1926)

122

12, HILL STREET,  
MAYFAIR, W.

9. 7. '12

Dear Lansbury,

In answer to your  
letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. -

I have already, about a fortnight  
ago, associated myself with  
the appeal issued by Reynolds's  
Newspaper.

Yours very truly,  
Stewart Samuel

Mrs. Ethel M. Whyte  
(21. Mallet)

Theosophical Society in England and Wales.

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TELEGRAMS: THEOSOPH, LONDON.  
TELEPHONE: 3372 NORTH.

Secretary, Propaganda Committee:  
L. HADEN GUEST.

Propaganda Department:

19, TAVISTOCK SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.C.

July 10<sup>th</sup> [1912]

Dear Mr. Lamsbury

My husband and I feel we must send  
something - though we can only afford a trifle - to the  
children who are nearly starving through the dock strike.  
As I feel sure you will know where our "mite"  
would be useful I venture to trouble you with it, not  
knowing whom else to send it to. I have some

hopes that I might be able to get some money from  
a special fund on Monday next if I could say  
how it would be applied - Would you therefore be so  
very kind as to tell me (if you know of it) of any  
quarters where distress is acute because of the strike,  
& let me have the particulars before Monday -

Hoping you are well & not overworking too  
much! I am ever always sincerely

Yours truly  
Ethel M. Weyte (née Mallett)

13 Willifield Way

Hendon N.W. July 10<sup>th</sup>



M449

124  
Ernest Thurtle

291  
~~265~~ Broadway.

New York. 12/7/12.



M449

Dear Mr. Lumbury/

Thank you for your letter which reached me today.

I realize fully what a great wrench it will mean to you & Mrs. Lumbury to have Dolly leave you & come so far away as here & I am sure you must feel anxious about it. What I say will not, I know, make the loss any less real to you, or the separating miles any fewer, but I should like you to feel that there is no real cause for anxiety.

For my part, I have not the least doubt that Dolly & I will be

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intensely happy as married people & I am sure I shall find in her a true & brave life companion. I trust I shall prove to be this to her also.

It is very true, as you point out, that second thoughts are difficult in regard to marriage, but after having considered all things as calmly as possible in the circumstances I feel firmly convinced that in marrying each other Dolly & I stand to gain very much in all that is best in life. I believe she feels this just as strongly as I do, otherwise she would never have consented to come so far to me. In going through life trouble comes to us all, & we cannot hope to escape from our share, but together I think we shall be able to meet this without any fear.

I am very glad to have this opportunity of assuring you that Dolly, as my wife, will be the same as she is now in so



for as <sup>her</sup> the work for the causes she has at heart is concerned. Our marriage would be very much of a failure were it to damp the generous enthusiasm she has for her causes & nobody would be more keenly disappointed about this than I should be. Fortunately we feel exactly as one in regard to this. Her causes are my causes except in one instance, & in this the difference is, I believe, one of name only. We are both looking forward to working together to forward our ideals, with a conviction that we shall be much more effective workers with our forces joined. Logical trade unionists, we believe in the strength of unity all the way through. I feel sure, even if you smile at our inexperience, you will agree with us in this.

With regard to the future, I have undertaken to remain out here two years, & if Dolly finds the life sufficiently agreeable we shall stay here that time, making a kind of temporary home here.

Then we shall return to London & make our home there.

Dolly tells me you are sceptical about our returning at the end of the two years. Well, I know it is foolish to be too positive about the future, but unless something extraordinary happens I feel <sup>certain</sup> we shall be back in London within this time. It is in England, & in London especially, that our interests are & it is there that we both feel our future work lies. You may think that we are likely to be subjected to some dollar temptation over here, but I hope & believe pieces of silver will not buy out convictions.

Hoping this note may reassure you a little & that I may some day have the pleasure of meeting you & Mrs. Sanbury, believe me,

Yours sincerely  
Ernest Thurtle

P.S. I hope you will let Dolly come as soon as possible.

Private

E. Whitley

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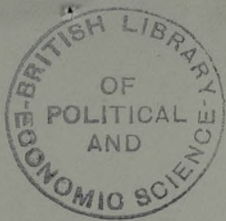
at Primley Hill,  
Raignton,  
Devon.

July 12. 1912

(Please note permanent address: —  
13 Linton Road, Oxford)

Dear Mr. Lansbury

After many vicissitudes  
your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. has at last  
reached me. After being returned  
to you & sent back to my old  
address at Liverpool it was  
forwarded to Oxford & thence here.  
It was curious its arriving just  
now after I had been so recently



M449

in communication with you. I have had the receipt for the money we sent you for the strikers & their families & am glad to think it may be of some small use in relieving their terrible distress.

As regards the subject of your letter - I am of course a regular reader of the "Herald" which I consider a marvellous production considering the handicap of want of capital under which it started.

At the same time I am most deeply interested in the success of the "Daily Citizen" & feel it would be a most lamentable thing if, owing to the fact that there were two Labour Dailies in the field both should become failures. The "Citizen" starting with larger capital & far more forethought & preparation should have the better chance & I should be indeed sorry to do anything to prejudice it in the least. At the same time the "Herald" has done so

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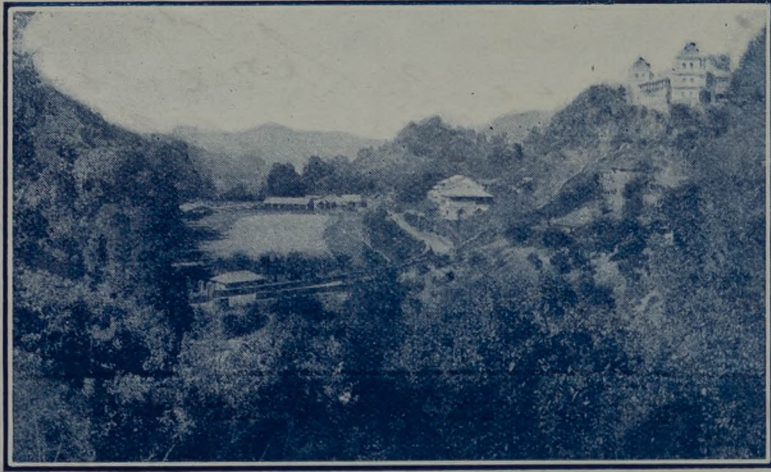
Splendidly that it would be a thousand pities to let it drop just now.

So there you have my position & see the reason why I have not already helped tho' often on the point of doing so. Your letter has brought matters to a head & I have to make some decision. I feel I cannot let you have the thousand you ask for as my first interest is in the "Citizen" & more money may be required for it before it is absolutely on its legs, but I send along cheque for £200 enclosed, & sincerely hope you may surmount present difficulties. Kindly acknowledge it as "anonymous" in the "Million Shilling Fund"

Yours sincerely  
E. Whitley

Sara Mackenzie - Kennedy

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HAPPY VALLEY AND PART OF CHARLEVILLE HOTEL

Mussoorie  
India.

MUSSOORIE, India

15<sup>th</sup> July 1912.

Dear Mr. Sansbury,

We want you to join The International  
Arbitration League, to place before the  
people the danger, immorality & the  
expense of militarism, & to urge our  
parliamentary representatives the  
necessity for teaching peace principles  
in all our schools, & impressing upon  
everyone the nobility of service to  
humanity, & the cowardice & cruelty  
of preparing <sup>for</sup> or sanctioning the killing  
& wounding of our fellow creatures  
in other lands, that explosives taken  
under water or up into the air should  
be internationally illegal & Criminal  
& that the whole Army should be con-  
verted into a large civilizing agency  
of Doctors, Engineers, Sanitary Experts,  
Science Teachers, fruit growers & Police

To fight against Disease, Poverty, Ignorance & Crime.

I am trying to form a branch of the Peace Movement out here, & should be very grateful if you could spare me a subscription or donation with your signature & if possible your photograph to help me in starting it, & perhaps you would honor it by becoming its President.

Yours very sincerely  
Sara Mackenzie-Kennedy.

I will send you the little books I have written if you would care to have them & you could give them away or send them to Charitable bazaars after you had read them.



M449

U.S.A. Cambridge Political Equality Association

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Treasurer, MRS. G. H. PARKER, 16 Berkeley Street

Recording Secretary, MISS MIRIAM GAGE, 5 Garden Street

Corresponding Secretary

MRS. EDWARD C. JEFFREY, 47 Lake View Avenue

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., U.S.A. July 16, 1912

Hon. George Lansbury, M.P.  
House of Parliament,  
Westminster,  
London, England.

Dear Sir:

I have read with keen interest your recent arraignment of the Government for its treatment of suffragist prisoners.

We, in America, are far enough away to have some perspective in this matter, and we see that England is torturing her best women, the women who are too noble to be parasites.

Your problems and ours are very different, but we regard the sufferings of your women with deepest sympathy. We hope the Government and the Home Secretary will not go so far in this oppression that they will cause such a tragedy that it will be remembered with shame for generations.

We are separated by the ocean, and by years of differing experiences, but we still feel our kinship, and the abuse of your women seems like the abuse of our sisters.

Since this is a personal letter, not a communication from my Association, I want to add a word of appreciation of your communication to the Daily Herald of May 20 in which you stir up Lloyd George to activity for the Single Tax. Interest in that subject is growing rapidly in the United States. My husband and I are Single Taxers and we watch with interest the advance of the movement in England.

With deep gratitude for your fitting and courageous speech in Parliament,

I am,

Most sincerely yours,

Grace Allen Johnson

(Mrs. Lewis J. Johnson)  
90 Raymond Street

Mrs. N. Webster Nicolosi  
of S. A.

Isolo

East-Grigueland  
Cape Colony S. A.  
July 26-1912

Mr. Geo Lauchbury M. P.  
Dear Sir

I have just read your speech in  
the roles for women which I have sent  
to me every week from the Office  
and I can't contain my self until I  
write to thank you for such "nobility"  
"You are wonderful" how the women  
of England will love you.  
Just to think of your courage in the  
house words fail me I can't tell  
you what I think am afraid of  
saying too much but please  
do not forget that not only the  
women in England but those in  
the wilds of South Africa are  
thinking of you continually,  
we shall never forget your fight  
for our freedom as long as we  
live you know I am too uneducated  
to write to you yet I feel you  
over



Mrs. N. Webster of S.A.

26 July 1912

(131)

such a Gentleman "out of Nature"  
not one that can "be made out from."  
I dare a Scion in England fighting  
for the cause of Law fighting out here  
fire needs afo our store was burnt  
to the ground by Delvin militia  
by the white people. My husband & I  
are 50 years of age and can't begin  
again and we are at the mercy  
of savages seven miles from another  
white face it is supposed the  
Delvin burnt our store because the  
white men told them they would  
not have to pay their debt. God help  
the white man we have lost our  
savings of a 'life time  
please excuse me writing to you  
but we are so far away & your  
speech cheered us some what  
more than we could tell you  
I dare not write all I could say  
for fear of wearying you.  
please if this letter comes to you  
Secretary give it to Mr. G. S. Sanborn  
& let him know how he is revered  
Believe me  
Mrs. N. Webster

STATIONS.  
REIGATE 4 MILES.  
HORLEY 3 MILES.  
TELEGRAMS. HORLEY.

Lady Henry Somerset  
(n. Isabel, eidi. of 3rd  
Earl Somers; d. 1921)

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THE COTTAGE,  
THE INDUSTRIAL FARM COLONY,  
DUXHURST, REIGATE.

July 30th 1912.

Dear Mr Lansbury

I saw the Editor of the DAILY CHRONICLE this evening. He is quite willing to do anything I want, but thought it would be wise to associate a few names with the appeal. I should be glad to have your opinion on this. He says the appeal must be out on Monday if it is to be of the slightest use, and I must write it, as there is no time to get anyone else. Now although I ought not to do so, I will come up on Friday and should like to go across to the Docks, and see some of the homes. For this purpose, will you put someone in communication with me at once, who can take me. Of course if you could spare half an hour I should be very thankful, as you would tell me more in that time than most people in an afternoon, if you could possibly meet me. I am getting at the MORNING POST, and I think most likely I shall succeed. The Westminster has already promised. There are some points as to the

contribution of the money &c which I think it very essential I should see you about, so I hope you will manage it somehow, either on Friday or early Saturday morning. I have to see a girl off for Canada at 9.30 on Saturday from Euston station, and should like to get home as early as possible that day. But I would meet you at Grays Inn Square (no. 4) if you could not manage to meet me on Friday.

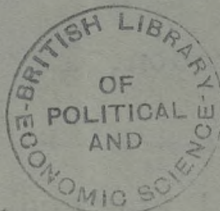
My telephone no. there is 5646 Holborn, and here it is 54 Horley.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

*Jabel Somerville*

---



M449

Charles Gray  
(see E. Sylvia Pankhurst, Suffragette  
movement 1931, p. 391)

49 Broughton Rd  
Thornton Heath

[July?, 1912]

133

Dear Mr. Lansbury

I want to thank you for what you  
said on my behalf, after my assault on Mr. Lloyd  
George. It is splendid to know that, in you, suffragists both  
male and female have so firm a friend. What  
I saw in prison only convinced me the more of the importance  
of women's enfranchisement, for I had as my companions  
some upon whom a wiser justice would have looked  
with leniency, while others, who had done unspeakable  
things, were placed in the second division.

Thanking you once more.

Your sincerely

Charles Gray.

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# INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY.

No. 6 Divisional Council.

London, Middlesex, Surrey, Kent and Sussex.

Organiser:

JAMES MYLLES,  
1, Briscoe Buildings, Brixton Hill, S.W.

Hon. Secretary:

HARRY DUBERY,  
40, Lavenham Road, Wandsworth.

Hon. Treasurer:

F. BAYLEY,  
13, Little Titchfield Street, W.

ST. BRIDE'S HOUSE,  
SALISBURY SQUARE,  
LONDON, E.C.

? July 1912

U R G E N T.

N A T I O N A L T R A N S P O R T S T R I K E.

Dear Comrade,

The Divisional Council has decided to ask the branches to take special collections at all meetings this week-end on behalf of the Children's Food Fund in connection with the Transport Strike. George Lansbury, M.P., and James O'Grady, M.P. are joint treasurers of this fund. There is no need to urge the importance of this action. The Strike must not be broken through the suffering of the children, so we appeal to you to strain every effort to make success secure. Kindly see that all money taken, whether collections, individual contributions, or branch grants, is despatched at once to me. Contributions will be welcomed as long as the strike lasts, but we desire this week-end to put up a big effort. All contributions sent to me will be acknowledged in the "Labour Leader" and the "Daily Herald". Is your branch going to top the list?

On behalf of the Divisional Council,

Yours sincerely,

JAMES MYLLES.

1912

Aug., Sept., Oct.

(fols. 135-162)

James Keir Hardie  
(1856-1915)

(135)  
29 Aug. 1912

Mr. James Keir Hardie

Miss Marion Dalrymple Stoddart

Married

on Thursday, August the twenty-ninth

one thousand nine hundred and twelve

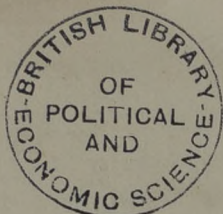
Brooklyn, New York



M449

Mrs. Frederick Hansen

136



Red Cottage,

Nunthorpe, S.O.

Yorks.

Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 1912

Dear Mr. Lambury,

Why didn't you say that Dorothy had gone over with Eleanor's mother!

Really I quite worried about her from the way you wrote so very vague and indefinite. How tiresome men are anyhow!

Tell your wife I think she should start very systematic 'spanking' of all the rest of your children, so that they will learn to know

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their own minds and act less spasmodically. Both of you spoil the children. That is the truth of it.

Now isn't it! Nothing beats good old Solomon's advice after all. The way members of your family rush off and rush back again it is quite bewildering.

Your poor wife must be kept in constant anxiety. If she would only take my advice and do some 'rushing' on her own account and leave those children to miss her a bit more often - they would consider her feelings more and appreciate her presence



more. Now it's of no use  
arguing about it! They  
don't save her unnecessary  
worry. I can see they don't.

They can get two husbands  
or two wives, but they  
can never get another  
mother, and they ought  
to realize it.

It is 'spanking' every one  
of them needs - even Edgar.

I'm sure of it. I tell  
Frieda here, that her  
mother has considered her  
too much. There the poor  
soul writes and pleads for  
letters from her only daughter,  
and her only daughter  
gaily ignores the pleading,

until we discover the grave  
omission then I assure  
you there is a round  
half hour of solid talk  
very plain and straight  
and 'Miss' goes meekly  
to her desk and writes.

It is shocking. If Frieda's  
mother had spanked her  
soundly I tell her she  
would remember, and she  
admits it all. Positively  
they like a certain amount  
of sternness. This young  
person positively thrives  
and rejoices on it, and  
swears eternal love for  
me because I won't be  
ridden all over and need  
up on her account. But she  
is a charming child. Spank  
the whole lot if not for yourselves then  
for me. I'm sure they deserve it.

never with affectionate greetings.

TELEPHONE 412.

Ada Cripps

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Arana,  
Shelley Road,  
Worthing.

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 1912

Dear Mr. Lausbury,  
Now that the  
Congress is over, I  
am so in hopes  
that you & Mr.  
Lausbury will be  
able to come to us,  
& get a good rest

and lovely seabreezes;  
I am sure we shall  
all (The I.L.P.) need  
it, to brace us for  
the coming fight!?

We shall be pleased  
to see you at any-  
time, with just a  
day's notice, in case  
I am from home;

I never go away further  
than Brighton, for the  
day.

My son "Jack" (the  
secretary of I.L.P.) will  
be delighted to drive  
you about in motor.  
May he fetch you  
from London, in it?

Hoping to hear that  
you are coming soon.

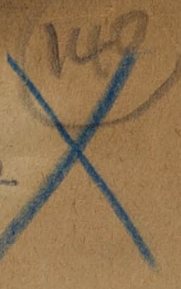
Yours very sincerely  
Ada Cripps

kindest regards.

M449



1912



Monday, September 18th, 1912.

## SOCIALISTS' PLEASANT SURPRISE.

### Visit by Mr. George Lansbury, M.P.

THE members of the local branch of the Independent Labour Party had a very pleasant surprise on Monday evening when they assembled at their local headquarters in Liverpool-terrace, for their usual weekly gathering, for awaiting their arrival was the well-known Labour leader, Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., who had specially come over to Worthing from Eastbourne; and the Member for Bow and Bromley kindly consented to address the meeting in place of the local speaker, who had originally been announced to do so.

The Chair was taken by Mr. F. W. Gray and amongst the members of the general public who were present were the prospective Liberal candidate for Horncastle (Alderman F. C. Linfield, J.P.) and the Secretary of the local Liberal Association.

#### A Definition of Socialism.

Mr. G. Lansbury said that Socialism was simply an organised state of Society, growing out of the present state and gradually coming into being by the consent and assistance of the people. Up till now, all reforms that were commonly supposed to be for the benefit of the people, had in reality been imposed on the people from above by a small clique. The working class was becoming more and more the great dominating factor; no other factor really counted without the working class, although it might count with the working class. The so-called "common" people had got to properly understand their real value and not to be so resigned and unambitious. The reason why the "common" people were in the miserable position that they are was because they did not value themselves and their children enough. Socialists must preach the holiest of all discontent, namely, discontent with our present social conditions. The "common" people must be made to feel really ashamed of

#### The Squalid Conditions

under which they consented to live; they must realise that it was all unnecessary, and that such conditions could—as soon as they so wished—be abolished. God never intended that any of them should live and die in slums. Passing on to speak on the question of our coal supply. Mr. Lansbury said that it was a scandal that although the wages of all who are engaged in the coal trade remain exactly the same all the year round, yet we are all of us fleeced into paying far more for our coal in winter than in summer. With regard to the land question, he was in favour of taxing out of existence all owners who "could not show their *little* deeds."

*little*

#### The Task Before Socialists

was a two-fold one: firstly, to arrest and palliate our destitution with its accompanying physical, mental, and moral deterioration; and secondly, and more important, to prevent destitution by removing its causes. The principal cause was the private ownership and control of the necessities of life, and so far neither the Tory or Liberal Parties had done anything to prevent poverty. He was opposed to the Insurance Act because it put a national bias on the idea of treatment rather than on the idea of prevention.

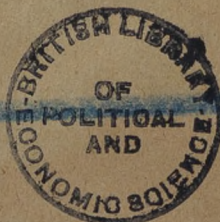
In reply to a question from Alderman F. C. LINFIELD as to whether he proposed that the State should confiscate the land of even small owners who had actually bought and paid for their land, Mr. LANSBURY replied that all who could show proper title deeds should be repaid what they had actually given for the land

1912  
Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P., paid a surprise visit to the Worthing I.L.P. on Monday evening, when he delivered a somewhat startling speech, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue. According to the official programme, an address was to have been given by the Branch Secretary (Mr. J. R. Cripps) on "How Socialism is Coming," but advantage was taken of Mr. Lansbury's visit to Worthing to secure him as the speaker for the evening. Mr. Cripps therefore postponed his address which, it is understood, will be given at a later date. Mr. Lansbury is not unknown at Worthing. He addressed a meeting at St. James's Hall some time ago, and he met with a very favourable reception on that occasion. On Monday evening the larger part of the audience appeared to be in favour of the views expressed by the hon. member, but there were those present who failed to agree with much that he said.

\* \* \*

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It is to be regretted that Mr. Lansbury so frankly associated himself with Syndicalism. Very little is known of this new theory in England as yet, and what is known does not appear to favourably impress the man in the street. The mad freaks indulged in by Pataud and other French Syndicalists at Paris last year, brought down upon them the condemnation of even the Socialists themselves. As yet there is no Syndicalist movement in England whatever. A few middle-class theorists running an obscure newspaper appear to represent the whole "movement." Syndicalism has reaped enormous advantages from the Government "Don't Shoot" prosecutions, inasmuch as it advertised a movement which would otherwise have remained unknown to the mass of the electors. By suffering imprisonment the Syndicalists showed the courage of their convictions, but they by no means proved the truth of their theory. The vast proportion of the Labour Party in this country would appear to be hostile to Syndicalism, if the vote at the recent Newport Congress on the subject may be taken as any indication of the opinion of organised labour. Many Liberals will agree with Mr. Lansbury's condemnation of the evils of land monopoly. Mr. Lloyd George himself has said things nearly as "strong," and is now engaged in preparing to come to grips with the enemy. The Progressive Parties should unite to deal with this problem, as it will require all the effort of their combined forces before it is completely overthrown. The local Socialists are to be congratulated upon having a Chairman of such boundless optimism as Mr. Gray. We venture to think, however, that the Socialist Member for the Lewes Division "of the type of George Lansbury" is as yet in the very dim and far-distant future!

M449



21 Sept. 1912

THE V

## MR. G. LANSBURY, M.P.

### A Remarkable Speech at Worthing.

#### Open Avowal of Syndicalism!

Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., the well-known Socialist Member for Bow and Bromley, delivered a remarkable speech at Worthing on Monday evening, at a meeting held under the auspices of the local branch of the I.L.P. Mr. Lansbury frankly advocated Syndicalism, which he described as "a healthy movement" calculated to save the people from falling into the power of "the Servile State." He strongly denied the right of any individual to own land, and urged that both land and minerals should be "taxed up to their full social value." He further urged the workers "to preserve the weapon of the strike."

On Sunday Mr. Lansbury addressed a crowded Socialist Demonstration at the Eastbourne Hippodrome. Several of the local Socialists were present, including the Chairman of the Worthing I.L.P. (Mr. F. W. Gray) and the Secretary (Mr. J. R. Cripps).

On Monday evening the meeting was held at the Studio, Liverpool-terrace, when Mr. F. W. Gray presided over a good attendance. A number of local Liberals were present including Alderman F. C. Linfield, J.P. and Mr. H. T. Western.

#### THE PROGRESS OF SOCIALISM IN WORTHING.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, referred amid applause, to the unexpected pleasure of another visit to their branch of "their comrade and friend, George Lansbury." Proceeding, he reviewed the progress which Socialism had made in the town. The I.L.P. was only two and a half years old in Worthing, and, considering the difficulties which they had had to face, he was satisfied that they had made wonderful progress—(applause). They had tried to make their fellow townspeople realise what Socialism meant, and they now had the satisfaction of knowing that the I.L.P. was a power in the town; they had taken firm root in Worthing, as a permanent political and social institution. He hoped the day would one day come when even the Lewes Division would be represented in Parliament by a man of the type of George Lansbury—(applause).

#### A DEFINITION OF SOCIALISM.

Mr. LANSBURY, who was very cordially received, commenced his address by defining what Socialism is. Socialism, he said, really meant an organised state of Society, growing out of the present state and coming into being by the conscious effort of the people themselves. Hitherto, all through their history, social systems had been imposed upon the people from the classes above them. From 1832 onwards each of the big reforms had for their avowed object the bringing of the democracy into power. But really they did nothing of the kind, and to-day we were governed by a bureaucracy set up by about a dozen big families. The power of the political caucus, of the landed interest, and of the monied classes was all powerful. All so-called reforms were imposed upon the people.

the Exchequer—which God forbid—(laughter)—he would tax land and minerals up to their communal value, and use the money for the benefit of the district, and for improving the conditions of life for the workers engaged in the district industry. Every winter coal went up in price. But the miner got no more money in consequence. The Socialists wanted to get rid of the coal owners and the multitude of intermediaries between the worker and the consumer. How were they going to do it? Speaking for himself he did not want the State to pay for the land. They might call it confiscation or what they liked, but every scrap of social value of land and minerals he wanted the State to take—(applause). He agreed that the machinery of production must be paid for, and for that the State could easily raise money. They could give the owners 3 per cent. consols in exchange for the scrip. They would not pay for watered capital—(hear, hear).

Outlining the industrial methods of the future, Mr. Lansbury declared that any industry, mining for example, would only be properly organised when the men who worked the mines took part, through delegates, in the management and organisation of the mines. The minimum wage could be paid in all mines if the nation owned them and pooled the output. Coal would then be brought to the communal depot of a town, and from thence distributed to the people at cost of production. The same principle would be applied to all other industries. Agriculture would have to be reorganised in this country owing to the incubus of landlordism and the infamous railroad rates—(applause). When land was being held up for game preserves, etc., he was in favour of applying

#### "A REAL THUMPING TAX"

equivalent to the whole social value of that land. There was really nothing very revolutionary about this; indeed, it would be the most prosaic form of revolution. Some of his comrades objected that by means of such a policy, Socialism would come very slowly. He admitted the force of the objection, and he further conceded, that through the medium of much of the present type of legislation they might degenerate into "a spoon-fed people," dependent upon a servile State. But he looked to the new Syndicalist movement to save them from that—(hear, hear). Syndicalism simply meant the right of the workers to run the trades they are engaged in, and coupled with it was the weapon of the strike. He was anxious for the workers to preserve the weapon of the strike. The whole Syndicalist movement was a very healthy and useful one. Mr. Lansbury concluded with a criticism of the present condition of the House of Commons, in which, he declared, the industrial workers were going to be more represented in future than they had been in the past.

Several questions were answered by Mr. Lansbury at the conclusion of his speech.

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...ing, Mr. LANSBURY emphasised the fact that Society was not a cast-iron thing at all, and after tracing the evolution of Society from the Norman Period, pointed out that the workers constituted the determining factor in society. Other factors counted with human labour, but none counted without it. Many thought that because things had existed in a certain form, therefore they must always remain so. That was one of the prejudices which Socialists had got to break down. The great duty which lay before them was to make the working classes realise their own worth as men and women; to spread the greatest possible discontent, and rouse the spirit of absolute revolt against the conditions under which the workers lived — (loud applause). He frankly recognised that it was a difficult job; but it was a job that was going to be done, or this civilization was going under. One of the greatest evils of the present day was the dead weight of apathetic content among the workers with the miserable conditions of life. Unless these conditions were altered they would certainly destroy civilization. The present race deterioration had got to be stopped. Something in this direction had been done by the so-called Socialistic legislation, but this legislation must be largely extended. If legislation of this kind were stopped at its present stage it would probably make matters worse than they were before. Present day legislation put Socialists in a difficult position. They had to do things, and support measures in which they only half believed in order to prevent further physical deterioration.

Proceeding to deal with the problem of monopoly, Mr. Lansbury used the coal mining industry as an illustration. Some worthy people, he said, had been very angry with the workers because strikes had been taking place. It was not the mere threat that their food "would cost them more," their coal had cost them more, even under Free Trade. To-day some of the miners were getting less in wages than before the strike. It was a striking fact that whether the workers gained anything, either by industrial or political means, if the land and machinery of production remained in the hands of the present owners, they got that concession back from the workers in some form or another.

"THE GOLDEN MILE."

Just outside Newport there was a piece of land known as "the Golden Mile." Every ton of minerals that passed over that mile paid a toll of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. to Lord Tredegar. At a coal mine in that district they paid 6d. a skip, or 3s. 6d. a day to Lord Tredegar. Now the problem arose, what was the nation to do with a man like that? There was no question here of compensating an investor, coal was found on his land, and he was thus enabled to levy this toll. He did nothing towards getting the coal; the coal strike proved that. When the miners struck, Tredegar didn't get his tanners!—(laughter). But what were they to do with him. He was an old man, and they couldn't hang him—(laughter).

A VOICE: Give him an old age pension!

Mr. Lansbury: Oh, no! He couldn't live on five bob a week! He was only a striking example of the evils of landlordism. Socialists denied the right of any man or any group of men to own land or minerals—that was their challenge. Land was here for the use of all, and should not be owned and used for the benefit of the few. If he were Chancellor of



C/o Dr Maguire (143)  
Dorothy Shallard 67 Merrion Square  
for Mrs. Mary Leigh Dublin  
24/9/12

Dear Mrs & Mr Lansbury,

Mrs Leigh desires me to thank you  
for the message of welcome on her release -  
We trust that with great care she will  
soon be on the road to recovery, but of  
course just at present she is not able to  
write & indeed is hardly allowed to talk -  
The thing that troubles her is the fact that  
Gladys Evans is not yet released & the  
thought that she is still going thro torture,  
is not assisting in her recovery -

see under Leigh, Mrs. Mary.

Yours sincerely  
Dorothy Shallard

Walter Coates

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Southernwood,  
East Hendred,  
Steynton, Berks.

My dear George

Sept 30/1912

It was so good to get your nice long letter when I got home tonight at 8/30 after a hard long day in the office etc. It was so good of you & Bessie to go and cheer up Mother & let her pet you both. I know you would have a good restful time if only you left yourself in Mother's hands - she always was soothsome.

I feel awfully criminal for not going to see her, but it is so hard to split oneself up and do so many things. I have to be in Town again in the morning until Friday night and shall stay at Cornwall Terrace. As Eleanor does not like being left alone she is going to Mrs in the morning to stay with Mother until Friday morning - so Mother will be able to tell her what a bad-temper her lad is. Mother is very fond of Eleanor & vice versa so they will enjoy being together.

You can't scare us by coming mid week - if you can't come weekdays we want you whenever you can come.

I may see you at Cornwall Terrace - I hope so.

I enclose a copy of an article by Sarah - written for the college magazine. It is her last word to her

pupils. I think it is one of the finest things  
I have ever read - full of optimism. Sarah ought  
not to die out so far as work is concerned. She  
ought to be retained by Govt as an Educational  
Expert. I suppose she is better equipped in matters  
Educational than 99% of the bores who are  
running education in England. Tell me - when  
you see me, what you think of the article.

No more now as I've got to get some  
work ready for my typist slave for tomorrow.

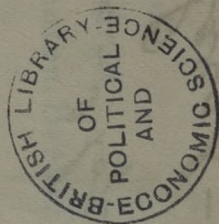
Love to you both from us  
Walter

---

This Article  
enclosed is  
written by one  
of the principals  
of the Home  
Colonial College

You have heard me  
speak of her she  
~~is~~ is giving  
up. I would like  
Ann to read it too  
With much Love  
Hoping you are  
much better  
Yours  
Wm. Prescott

George and  
Myself  
are  
coming to  
see you  
on  
Friday  
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M449

# Citizenship

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## LABOUR M.P.'s AND THE REFORM BILL.

TO THE EDITOR, DAILY HERALD.

SIR,—Your readers may have been interested in the official contribution of the "Labour Leader" to the discussion of the party's attitude towards the Reform Bill.

I put it to your readers that the article in the issue of that journal on "The Labour Party and Women" is but the beginning of the end of a cautious climb-down which began immediately after the Albert Hall demonstration and may end with a Manhood Suffrage Act.

For if there is any confusion as to the general position of the I.L.P. and the Labour Party on the subject, such confusion is entirely due to the development amongst our Parliamentary leaders of that Parliamentary mode of utterance which prohibits any clear and definite statement of the party's position on any subject whatever, and least of all on the subject of women's rights. This is the mark of the party politician.

It is true that the N.A.C. passed a strong resolution urging that, if women were excluded from the Reform Bill, the Labour Party should oppose it, even to the extent of defeating the Government. It is true that the I.L.P. conference endorsed their action. The Labour Party conference also, by a large majority, expressed itself by a resolution which was understood by the delegates to mean definite opposition to the Bill on third reading if women are not included in its provisions. Yet, because of the misleading words which were used in framing the Labour Party conference resolution, and the equally misleading "pledge" given at the Albert Hall demonstration, "the Woman Suffrage papers" to use the "Labour Leader's" words, "are still devoting much space to a discussion of the attitude of the Labour Party towards the Reform Bill."

### The Albert Hall "Pledge."

The first point is this: that at the Labour Party conference the resolution was deliberately framed so that, whatever it was understood to mean by the delegates, it would leave to the Parliamentary leaders the ultimate task of deciding upon definite opposition to, or definite support of, the Bill. Hence the particularly subtle wording: "that no measure for the extension of the franchise will be satisfactory which does not give votes for women," leaving everybody in the exhilarating atmosphere of pious resolutions.

The second point is that the Albert Hall "pledge" only helped to muddle the position. At the time I wrote a letter to the "Labour Leader," which the powers saw fit almost entirely to suppress, endeavouring to restrain the enthusiasm of their descriptive reporter, who seemed to have been completely taken in by the "pledge." He wrote as though Macdonald had finally and effectually cleared the ground to my sight. I pointed out that the "pledge" was a politician's pledge, and had been withdrawn in the same breath as that in which it had been uttered; and I think many will agree that the present position of confusion and doubt bears me out.

What I and others up and down the country desire to ask is just this: Why cannot our leaders in Parliament tell us exactly where they stand, and what they propose to do? The position of the I.L.P. members is quite clear. Mr. Hardie says that if women are not included in the Bill, he and his I.L.P. colleagues will oppose the third reading, irrespective of consequences. Then what will hinder the Trade Unionist members from voting in accordance with the sense of their own resolution? Nothing, Mr. Editor, but the simple fact that the spirit of the resolution and the letter are two different things. The spirit and the speeches at the conference were engineered for window-dressing purposes; the letter leaves the politicians exactly where they were. Certainly, then, when the crisis comes, most of the Labour representatives will play to the good old rule, the simple plan, when in doubt, and when you can—vote with the Government!

The contributor to the "Labour Leader" concludes his article of elucidation with: "We trust we shall not fail!" (i.e., to persuade the Labour members to honour Macdonald's pledge). Is this the way to succeed? No, sir! The I.L.P. will not succeed, and the Labour Party will not turn out the Government. The fact that the "Labour Leader" devotes two columns of careful analysis of the subject in an unsuccessful attempt to arrive at something definite is sufficient proof of that!

During their brief tenure of office the present Government have committed enough crimes against the people of this country, and especially the women, to condemn them a thousand times before the bar of public opinion. The Insurance swindle and the filth of the Labour Exchanges jobbery have made the public service impossible for any but the hide-bound creatures of party and self. The friends of ministers and the friends of their friends, are pitchforked into arm-chair jobs to degrade the service and rob the public purse. Placemen and silence money are the rule. Yet still the party hesitates on account of some political working arrangement of which the rank-and-file know nothing.

Finally, women are tortured daily in our prisons for demanding equal punishment for equal offences. Only last week Mrs. Leigh was released because the prison authorities dare not risk murder by torture within their walls. What says Mr. Macdonald to this? He cannot be so absorbed in his "high Imperial mission" as to remain entirely unaffected by these things. We know that the Indian Civil Service is rotten; but it is no more rotten than the Home Service. We know also that Macdonald objects to militancy (on the part of women and Labour members). Yet surely right is still right, and not wrong! He says he believes in votes for women; the I.L.P. members of Parliament as a whole believe in votes for men; the majority of the Trades Unionists of the country believe in votes for women.

All have expressed themselves (the last named as clearly as their leaders would let them) in favour of turning out the Government should they attempt to take their Bill to the House of Lords without the inclusion of women. Then, Mr. Editor, what is the position of the Labour Party on the Government's Reform Bill?—Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD J. LANSBURY.

Bow, E.

## NATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP.

HERALD.  
Appealed in the Press for National Suffrage Shop, 15, we then stated that £500 were guaranteed at further sum of £500 for more widely known, shut at the end of (September 29).

It is stated that £403 has been and we feel sure that the feminist movement who help when such a large sum is asked for, will now come for further development of the cause.

EDWARD J. LANSBURY.  
M. SWANWICK.  
ALEXANDER CHAYKOVSKY.

## BAITING: A QUESTION.

HERALD.  
The "vicious" "pastime" of baiting is in vogue among the militant workers to throw out the militants.

The "dockers' police" are to be formed from them with good reason. A body of fifty or 100 strong men intend demonstrating against the "dockers' police."

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W. CHAMBERLAIN.  
Thomas, Exeter.

## MEETING IN NORTH KENT.

HERALD.  
A meeting was held at Gillingham last week in connection with the speaker's visits to Gillingham.

The speaker, Mr. Hardie, addressed the largest crowd that had ever gathered in an open-air meeting in that district. The nature of the "militancy" of the speaker's speeches were heartily received, realising the high importance of the movement, and knowing that the speaker had taken in the fight, and was anxious to express by a speech they knew not how to

## NATIONAL CLUB.

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The National Club has called the attention of the "Congress Permanent du Travail," which has its headquarters in London.

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W. CHAMBERLAIN.  
Thomas, Exeter.



Edgar  
145a  
M449

60, Belbeck St., Elton, Bury, Lanes.

8<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1912

Thomas B. Milton

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Dear Sir, - I have just received your circular asking for help towards your "fighting fund". The circular was addressed to Moorlands Rd., Camberley, & has been forwarded on to me.

Had you known I am an old age pensioner you would not address me as an "Esq." Well, I am also an Army pensioner, & the two pensions added make the sum total, on which I have to support myself & my wife, 12/1 a week. This amounts to £31.8.0 a year, while the Archbishop of Canterbury's daily official pay is £41 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. This is to keep up his Christian dignity. In order that the King (with a small R) may keep up his Christian dignity this Christian nation has decided that his day's pay should be enough

to support my wife & me for forty-one years.  
So much for Christian England. And,  
ah! and, the working men of England will  
have so. They cannot see, they will not see  
the utter sham by which they are gulled.

Is there no way of bringing working men to  
their senses? Is this sort of sham to last for  
ever? It ought not. Education should do  
something towards exposing it. The Press,  
in the hands of the capitalists, have done  
much towards keeping the uglier features  
of capitalism out of sight. We want a

Crusade against the Capitalist Press. How is  
it to be brought about? In what way can  
the working men be persuaded to weigh well  
all that the newspapers tell them respecting  
capital & labour. Ah! the working man  
is not sceptical enough regarding news-  
paper utterances. Reflection is a late at-  
tribute in man's education. I know it.

As a boy I went to work <sup>as father</sup> at 8 years of age in  
a woollen factory in North Devon. My

wage was ninepence a week. At 11 years of age  
I worked as full times at 1/7 a week.  
My mother (father was dead) worked from 6 am  
till 8 p.m. for less than 6/- a week. All  
house work had to be done after 8 p.m.  
The owners of that factory, to day are said  
to be millionaires. A brother & sister of mine  
were starved to death. I thirved & lived.

In 1854 I joined the army. In 1857 I  
volunteered to a Regiment that was sent  
to India on account of the Mutiny.  
I was in India seventeen years. It  
was there I began to reflect. This reflec-  
tion has cost me something; I will not say  
what. Reflection is no use to a coward.  
If it is worth anything it must be  
acted upon at all cost. Now I believe  
that George Lansbury is no coward.  
I believe he has the spirit of the martyr  
in him. To him principle is something  
more than words. He is not afraid of  
the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister  
has brains, but I don't think he has  
the spirit of the martyr, & when Mr  
Lansbury took his measure in the House

I would suppose that on his question, he must have felt that in one respect he was the superior of the suffragettes. Since that incident I happened to meet, at Guildford, one of Mr. Lasenbury's Lansbury's constituents who had not enough adjectives wherewith to praise Lansbury. I was pleas-

Well, I have  $\frac{1}{2}$  & gladly shall you have 6 of it. This mind you is no sacrifice. I shall probably sleep the sounder to night for giving my little mite.

You will find enclosed twelve half penny stamps.

Yours very sincerely  
Geo. B. Milton

P.S. Please do not go to the expense of acknowledging the receipt of them.



M449



**Remember!!! November 1st, and Vote solid for—Your own Wives—Your own Children, and—Your own People—The Labour and Socialist Candidates, and Smash the Alliance.**

# THE WORKER.

The Organ of the  
Borough of Poplar Trades Council and Labour Representation Committee.

*see also pp. 2, 3, 4*

## Special Borough Council Election Number.

### To my Fellow Citizens, Men and Women of Bow, Bromley and Poplar.

Once more we are in the fight for a better life, and once more you have to choose whom you will serve "God or Mammon." On every hoarding your old enemies the Municipal Alliance are appealing to the very lowest and most sordid interests of the monied classes. They are asking for a renewed lease of power, and promise if placed in power they will continue to "Seek first the kingdom of skinflint economy" and thereby save a few pounds in rates, not caring a scrap how much of suffering may follow their economy.

This Alliance, which prates of its money-grubbing and its kindness to the poor, has driven your old men, crippled and maimed by age, disease and want, out of the control of your representatives and placed them in a worn-out building under the control of the City of London Guardians, whose workhouse overlooks a cemetery, and where the conditions are wretchedly inferior to those which prevailed in your own institutions. To do this these rate-savers sold out to another Board, also controlled by an Alliance, the Forest Gate Workhouse for a paltry £40,000, which was at least worth £150,000 as a going concern.

Not content with this, these same rate-savers have consistently and persistently used their power on the Borough Council to reduce wherever they possibly could the employment of direct labour, and so have once more brought in the contract system with all its attendant evils. The result is more unemployment, more suffering, and more misery generally, and will mean much more when the present boom in trade commences to wane.

But we come before you not merely to oppose and criticise our opponents. Their tales are "oft told," and are as true and false as all such tales invariably are, and we can leave them and their cheeseparings and their savings. One sentence should settle the matter for you. They tell you rates settle what rents you pay; if this is so why is it if rates have gone down rents are still extravagantly high?

We come before you with one clear determination, and that is to fight out in the Borough Council, the Board of Guardians on the L.C.C., and in Parliament the whole problem of poverty. We have obtained power to administer our own affairs. We shall use that power not to put the landlord, the capitalist, nor their foremen, nor their servants in power, but men and women of our class who shall be representative of and responsible to the common people. You are the people who should and, if you are to obtain all you need, must control your own representatives. We want a Poplar which shall be a healthy, happy place to live in. November 1st is polling day. In the calendar of the Church it is All Saints' Day, when we celebrate the life and work of those saints of old, who did their work, who gave life and energy to the cause of God and the people, and who went to their grave unnamed, unhonoured, and unsung. In public life *to-day* we want and must have the same kind of spirit, the spirit which impels and compels men and women to give their very best to a great and noble cause. We would ask you to rally to our standard because we want unselfish men and women to fight for the common good, and our battle-cry is

**HUMANITY against MAMMON,  
The PEOPLE against PLUTOCRACY.**

GEORGE LANSBURY.

### And forth the Banners go!

The battle is fairly joined. All over the Borough the forces of Labour and Socialism are attacking the citadel of Landlordism and Capitalism, and never yet were the chances of success brighter than they are now.

All that is wanted in order to destroy the enemy—horse, foot, and artillery—is the determination of every man and woman who has a vote, and who thinks that life can be made worth living, to use it on behalf of the L.R.C. candidates.

Every candidate put forward by us has been nominated by his or her Trade Union or Socialist Society. Every one is respected by his or her fellows. Every one has done something for labour. If they are not elected they will still work for labour. With all of them "the cause alone is worthy."

The candidates put forward by the Alliance are a scratch team. Most of them are selected because they lack initiative, and have practically no knowledge of municipal affairs. They must be composed of men of this description, otherwise they might have the courage to throw over their leaders. And if this happened what would be the good of the big firms subscribing so heavily to the Alliance Funds?

Therefore on personality alone we claim our candidates have a greater claim on your suffrages. But we will waive this point and consider the matter from the more serious point of view of programme and principles.

The Alliance simply repeat a cry, like a well-trained parrot: "No Socialists this time and keep down the Rates." We can imagine Mr. F. T. Munnings drilling his squad and making them speak the phrase altogether. Judging by the capacity of some of their members on the present Council and their inability to string a coherent sentence together, we do not envy him his task.

The Labour Party stands for purity of administration. Because a Borough Councillor lives in a certain street that is no reason why that street should be well paved and lighted and other streets be neglected.

The Labour Party does not believe in Charity. It cures no evil to give a starving family a bit of bread. We want to give the man work with good wages, so that he can keep his family without them starving at all. This is why we insist on Trade Union wages being paid by all contractors. The Alliance do not like this policy. Contractors always like to support the Alliance.

The issue is in your hands. The fight is your fight. Do you want to be good citizens of no mean city, or do you prefer to be the mere slaves of a machine, driven hither and thither at your master's wish?

We appeal to you all, then, to remember your manhood and womanhood. The same red blood pulses through the veins of worker and master. The Founder of Christianity taught us to pray to "Our Father." The Brotherhood of Man therefore means equality of opportunity for all and privilege for none.

Stunted men, underfed and overworked women, and starving children are in our midst. We want to free them from their bondage.

The Alliance prates of Rates. What is money compared with the value of the life of one single child. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" What shall it profit us if the rates of Poplar go

## DON'T FORGET THE MASS MEETINGS!!!

**POPLAR TOWN HALL, Tuesday, October 29th, at 8 p.m.**

**BOW BATHS HALL, Thursday, October 31st, at 8 p.m.**

Speakers: GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P., WILL CROOKS, M.P., JAMES O'GRADY, M.P., WILL THORNE, M.P., and others.

down one penny and as a result children, women, and men are plunged further into poverty and hunger.

Forward then, men and women of Poplar, Bromley, and Bow. Vote solidly for Labour and Socialism. We are out for a great Victory. We are driving the enemy before us. With your help their defeat shall become a rout.

Forth then our banners go. Help us to place them triumphant on the Castle of Monopoly and help us to build up a new Poplar with strong men, happy women, and merry-hearted children forming the great mass of its citizens.

The issue is with you. If you think but for one moment there can be no doubt as to your action.

JOHN SCURR.

## The Women and the Municipal Elections.

A vote for Labour in the coming elections for the Poplar Borough Council is a vote for the housewife and the hard-driven mother of East London. She has a pretty bad time of it now, and a Labour Party, a strong fighting Labour Party, on the Council can do many a thing which will ease her burdens and make her life happier. It cannot do them in the twinkling of an eye. It is not one election that can give us a new heaven in Bow and Bromley, and Poplar but we can begin to lay the foundations right enough. That was done years ago, indeed, when first Labour's voice was heard on the Board of Guardians, and ever since Labour has gone on fighting its uphill way.

Here are some of the needs of the women to-day. Who but Labour Councillors will ever try to gain them?

Houses which are self-contained, with a larder, a bath-room, a scullery in each, and a place to put the coals as well. Those are some of the first necessities. If we had them there would not be any need to talk of those horrors, cleansing stations for verminous children. There would be none of that fear with which a mother now often sends her little ones to school, the fear that they may have to sit next to poor neglected little souls who are dirty and verminous. The mothers do not love dirt. Some, overworked, underfed and hopeless, get disheartened and from sheer lack of power to struggle any longer give up the fight and grow careless and neglectful. But give them the chance to live in a house where convenience and comfort and civilised ways have been provided for, and many a dirty unhealthy little child would have the sunshine of cleanliness and strength once more. We do not want a bath just stuck up somewhere in the living room, but a real *bath-room*. As all but one or two of our new Councillors to be are men, we women want to make these details of housing quite clear to them!

Another crying need is play grounds. Green places, grass and trees and flowers, just little patches of them scattered about near the children's homes, near enough for even the tiny ones to reach them safely. But they must be beautiful to look at and not mere empty dusty spaces. We want our children in the poor districts to grow up with a love of fresh green trees and flowers. We want them to play where there are beautiful things about them, to get away sometimes from the dull, grey streets of little houses where their homes are crowded together.

There are a thousand small matters as they seem at first, which are of great importance to women. Think, for example, of the benefit of a daily collection of house refuse, and the washing of overalls specially provided for the men engaged in the work of collecting it at the corporation works, so that the dirty, smelling clothes need not be brought back to the homes. The great work of the Borough Council is in keeping the district clean and healthy, and in making the Borough a pleasant place to live in. There are no questions which matter more in every-day life. The inspection of the food supply, a provision of pure milk, means life for thousands of slum babies, and even of working women's babies who do not live in what anyone could fairly call a slum. What so many people do not understand is that the vast majority cannot possibly get for themselves just acting as individuals numberless things which go to make up the needs of a comfortable civilised life. But they can get them if they act all together as a community. Recreation halls as well as recreation parks can be gained if the people wish for them. Libraries and lectures and music, all these can be procured through the Borough Council if we want them. The women want rational amusement as well as the men, and they want it close at hand. What is more, they want increased comforts in their homes so that they may set out to enjoy themselves with a sense that their houses are all in order and that their duty as home-makers is well done. Think of the miseries of a bad water supply, badly repaired house, hidden little coal hole, living room

without a scullery or even a decent sink, with a bath tub to be filled by half a dozen kettles and emptied with such a strain at the yard grating!

Homes! Why to-day we have only apologies for homes. But if all the men and women act together and send a stronger body than ever of Labour members to the Borough Council the women will have more hope in their hearts, and their dreams of health and comfort and home happiness be brought nearer fulfilment. We have joined in a great battle for the right to a civilised life, and every success along the line brings nearer the final victory and the end of the war against poverty.

MARION PHILLIPS, D.Sc.

## Borough Council Elections. LABOUR'S CHALLENGE TO THE ALLIANCE.

On Friday, November 1st, the Electors of the Borough of Poplar will be called upon to say who will be their representatives for the next three years. Labour has issued a challenge at this Election to the Alliance by nominating 24 Candidates for the various wards throughout the Borough. Our Candidates will stand for a definite programme in the interest of the Workers.

We are struck with the tactics of the Alliance in supporting all and sundry that are not Labour Candidates. So-called Independents and Progressives are being taken under their wing, proving that the principles of the Labour and Socialist Party for the last ten to fifteen years has now been confirmed, the Policy advocated by the Municipal Alliance and the Progressives being identical.

We are glad that at last they have the honesty to admit the same. We strongly urge every elector to vote for the Labour and Socialist Candidates in whatever ward they are standing, and so secure a victory for Labour's cause. We give below our Candidates and a survey of our position in the various wards.

### Vote Solid for Labour and smash the Alliance.

BOW, NORTH WARD.

#### J. R. BURNETT, A. V. FARR, ED. I. LANSBURY

Excellent progress is being made in this Ward. Our three Candidates and their Ward Committee have settled down to real good work, and feel confident of securing a triumphant victory despite the fact that their opponents are standing as so-called Independents. We notice our opponents are endeavouring to make capital by stating our Candidates do not live in the Ward. As a matter of fact they are all life-long residents of Bow, and can be approached on any matter affecting the interests of the people, it being well known that your late representatives, Councillor A. James and Councillor J. R. Burnett, have always been at your service if needed, and our present Candidates will continue to do the same.

One of our opponents has on two or three occasions tried to get in on the Alliance ticket, and has signally failed. Now they are trying to hoodwink the people by standing as Independents. The Labour Party on the Borough Council and Board of Guardians have experienced on which side these so-called Independents vote. It is nearly always against the workers' interests and on the side of the Alliance. We feel confident that our supporters will vote solid for our three Candidates, Burnett, Farr, and Lansbury, and return them as their representatives and help us to smash the Alliance this time. Workers should report themselves to the Committee Room, 1A Wick Terrace.

BOW, CENTRAL WARD.

### Rout of the Alliance. Socialist and Labour Candidates winning. Unexpected support.

#### EDWARD CRUSE, T. E. KELLY, A. A. WATTS

The advent of our three Candidates in this Ward has caused consternation in the Alliance camp. Our opponents now know they are fighting a losing fight. Everywhere throughout the Ward unexpected support is forthcoming, and when the poll is declared a big surprise will be revealed. Several who supported the Alliance at the last election are supporting and working for the Socialist Candidates. We feel confident a great victory will be secured in this Ward. We would urge our workers and supporters not to relax their efforts, but to keep on with the systematic work they are now doing, remembering all

**Vote for Yourselves  
and the Workers' Candidates.**

the time how this trinity of Alliance representatives have on all occasions flouted the workers and gone direct against their interests every time on the Council. They came before you on previous occasions with the cry of "Lower Rates mean Lower Rents." Rates have gone down not as the result of Alliance administration, but through the operation of legislation over which they have no control. Any advantage that has accrued has gone to the big Monopolists and Employers who are at the head of the Alliance, *the Worker still pays*. You know your rents have not gone down, do not be fooled. Alliance promises are worthless. Support your own this time and give yourselves a chance.

Committee Rooms, 85, Tredegar Road, Bow.

#### BOW, WEST WARD.

### **GEORGE LANSBURY, ALFRED PARTRIDGE.**

We cannot help comparing the fight in this Ward on the present occasion with that of six years ago, when the big guns of the Alliance were soundly beaten. Out of all their supporters they can only find one candidate to stand up to your old representatives. We trust our supporters will do their duty this time and show by their votes that there is no room for even one Alliance candidate.

Committee Room is at 101 St. Stephen's Road, Bow.

#### BROMLEY, SOUTH WEST WARD.

### **J. H. BANKS, S. MARCH, C. E. SUMNER**

The Alliance have found three representatives to oppose our comrades Banks, March, and Sumner. The past records both of the Ward and its representatives cannot give the Alliance any hope of making any headway in this district. The work of Sumner, March, and Banks is known to every worker. However, we would urge our supporters not to neglect the opportunity of defeating the representatives of the Alliance and giving them a sound thrashing, and return your old representatives with a good thumping majority that will sweep the Alliance from this Ward altogether.

#### BROMLEY, NORTH EAST WARD.

### **I. GEESON, T. J. GOODWAY, C. JONES.**

This is another Ward where we are confident of securing a victory for Labour. Our Candidates are working hard to achieve the honour of regaining these three seats. That this is a Labour Ward there is no gainsaying seeing that it has always been represented by Labour representatives. Our three Candidates are energetic workers, and well known throughout Bromley for the work they have put in for the Workers' Cause. Ingle Geeson is a prominent member of the Gasworkers' Union. T. J. Goodway is well known to the residents of this Ward, being the Secretary of the Local Branch of the Postmen's Federation and a member of the Bow and Bromley I.L.P. Charles Jones is a member of the Bow and Bromley Independent Labour Party, and has done good work recently in connection with the distress that was prevalent during the recent Transport Workers' Dispute.

The comrades will undoubtedly give a good account of themselves on the Council. We are gratified to know that the electors of this Ward are promising their support.

Workers of North East Bromley do not be hoodwinked by Alliance figures and promises. Remember how they have carried out their promises in the past. Vote solid for the Labour Candidates and out with the Alliance.

Committee Rooms, 107 St. Leonards Street, Bromley.

#### BROMLEY, CENTRAL WARD.

### **C. WILLIAMS, J. WOOSTER**

One of the biggest fights in the Borough is taking place in this Ward. As the result of an undoubted understanding the Alliance are only running one Candidate and supporting a so-called Independent, who is nothing less than an Alliance Candidate running under false colours. Our Candidates, Williams and Wooster, are not leaving anything to chance. They, with their Committee, are doing great and effective work, and from what we can learn their chances are good. The workers in this Ward only want to be true to themselves and support their own this time and our two comrades will go in with a good majority.

Committee Rooms are at 326 St. Leonards Road, and all who can assist are urged to turn up and work hard to secure a victory for Labour.

#### BROMLEY, SOUTH EAST WARD.

### **I. JOHNSON, H. SHEPPARD**

Our Candidates in this Ward will make a good fight notwithstanding the fact that the Alliance are supporting the so-called Progressives. Isaac Johnson is the nominee

of the Gasworkers Union, and has done good work for the Labour Movement. H. Sheppard is a member of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, and a life-long resident in the district. This being a purely working-class district should have two of their own to represent them. We strongly recommend the workers of this Ward to vote for our comrades Johnson and Sheppard, and to give their other vote to the Independent Candidate, Rev. J. M. Maillard, and so defeat the Alliance and their nominees. **Labour can win in this Ward.**

Committee Rooms are at 28 Culloden Street, Poplar, where all who can assist will be welcomed.

#### POPLAR, NORTH WEST WARD.

### **R. W. HILDITCH, Miss KATHLEEN MEDLEY**

The selection of a woman as a candidate in this Ward has met with approval from a good number of the electors. Our Candidates here are gaining support every day. The Alliance and the Progressives, thinking to defeat Labour, have put two candidates forward, with a recommendation to support the Progressive. We trust the supporters of the Labour movement will be true to themselves and vote for our old colleague, R. W. Hilditch and Miss Medley. In our opinion the workers of this Ward should go solid against those whose policy and interests are distinctly opposed to their own, and give their third vote to our Comrade NEAL.

We would urge our workers not to be over confident, and to remember that this seat was only lost on the last occasion by one vote. Work can and will win this Ward.

Committee Rooms are opened at 147 East India Road.

#### POPLAR, EAST WARD.

### **W. R. JUDGE, W. TURNER**

Labour is still holding to its challenge to the Alliance leader. That he is not very confident was shown at the recent sparsely attended meeting at the Poplar Town Hall, where certain pertinent questions relative to his conduct to the workers during the recent dispute were put to him. One would think from his replies that men go on strike for the fun of the thing.

Our Candidates are doing good work and are very confident of securing a victory. Stevedores, Dry Dock Workers, Dockers and General Labourers, *vote as you strike*. Remember the Alliance is composed of Employers, Managers, and Foremen, whose interests are against yours. Vote solid for your own candidates, W. R. Judge and F. Turner, and do not be misled by distorted Alliance figures and promises.

Committee Rooms are at 15 Prestons Road, Poplar E.

#### POPLAR, CUBITT TOWN WARD.

### **D. W. HUBBARD, JOHN SCURR**

Our Candidates in this Ward are showing up well, and appearances point to both of them being victorious. Here they are being opposed by a curious combination, an Alliance candidate, an Independent, and a Progressive all being run on one ticket under the auspices of the Alliance. What a curious medley. One is the nominee and representative of an engineering firm, another a contractor for Municipal Authorities, and the other, as we believe, a Landlord. Workers of Cubitt Town, *Can this combination represent your interests? Will the Foreman raise your wages? Will the Landlord reduce your rent?*

Remember how the employers and capitalists treated you during the recent Transport Workers Dispute. These are the supporters of the Alliance and its nominees. Remember the suffering and misery caused through their actions.

We would strongly urge all workers, Engineers, Fitters, Dockers, and General Labourers, to support their old representative Dan Hubbard and his colleague John Scurr. Vote straight for Labour and defeat the Alliance Candidate. Labour's Committee Room is 22 Glengall Road, Poplar.

We cannot close this survey of the fight without referring to the candidature of our comrade Mrs. JULIA SCURR in WEST WARD OF POPLAR. That a woman's influence and interest is needed in the administrative work of the Borough Council cannot be denied. Women and children, healthy and clean houses, all come within a woman's sphere, and we know of no other woman in the borough who is more qualified and capable of looking after the interests of the women and children than Mrs. Scurr.

Her sterling and unselfish work on behalf of the poor of this district, both on the Board of Guardians, and in other directions, is well known.

We hope the Electors of West Ward will give her their votes and support, and return her to do a woman's work on the Council.

**SMASH THE ALLIANCE  
THIS TIME.**

# Poplar Borough Council Election, 1912

Polling Day - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## MASS MEETINGS

WILL BE HELD IN SUPPORT OF

### The L.R.C. Candidates

AT THE

EAST INDIA DOCK GATES, POPLAR,

And the "OBELISK," Devons Road, Bow,

On Sunday Morning, October 27th, at 11.30 a.m.

### POPLAR TOWN HALL, Newby Place

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers: WILL CROOKS, M.P., GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P., L.C.C., R. C. K. ENSOR, L.C.C.,  
Alderman W. DEVANEY and the Labour Candidates.

### BOW BATHS HALL, Roman Road

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st, at 8 p.m.

Speakers: J. O'GRADY, M.P., WILL THORNE, M.P., GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P., L.C.C.,  
HERBERT BURROWS, and the L.R.C. Candidates.

### WARD MEETINGS

will be held as under—

#### Cubitt Town Ward.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30th, at 8.30 p.m.

#### CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOLS,

BILLSON STREET,

Speakers-G. LANSBURY, M.P., R. C. K. ENSOR, L.C.C.

And the CANDIDATES

D. HUBBARD and JOHN SCURR.

#### North West Ward, Poplar

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30th, at 8.30 p.m.

#### At GIRAUD STREET HALL,

Speakers-W. CROOKS, M.P., G. LANSBURY, M.P.,

R. C. K. ENSOR, L.C.C., and the Labour Candidates

R. W. HILDITCH & Miss MEDLEY

WORKERS! DON'T BE FOOLED!!

## SMASH THE ALLIANCE !!!

Work and support your own this time,

## VOTE for the LABOUR CANDIDATES

Your assistance will be welcomed at the following Committee Rooms:

BOW, NORTH WARD—1a Wick Terrace  
BOW, WEST WARD—101 St. Stephen's Road  
BOW, CENTRAL WARD—85 Tredegar Road  
BROMLEY, NORTH-EAST WARD—107 St. Leonard St.  
BROMLEY, CENTRAL WARD—236 St. Leonard's Road

BROMLEY, SOUTH-EAST WARD—28 Culloden Street  
BROMLEY, SOUTH-WEST WARD—35 Morris Road  
POPLAR, NORTH-WEST WARD—147 East India Road  
POPLAR, EAST WARD—15 Prestons Road, Poplar  
POPLAR, CUBITT TOWN WARD—22 Glengall Road