

Vol. 8

(fols. 139-160)

1922



*18 Whitechapel & Bow [say] 1922*

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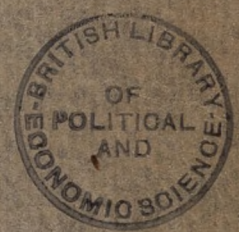
Born in Halesworth, Suffolk, on February 21st 1859

Brought to London at age of seven and settled in East End - major part of the time in Whitechapel. Father, a small contractor. Reason for birth in Halesworth: father engaged as a sub-contractor on line between Ipswich and Yarmouth.

Married to Elizabeth J. Brine, daughter of Isaac Brine, Timber Merchant, on Oak Apple day, May 29th 1880.

From 15 to 20 years of age, engaged in working with Liberals, mainly in Whitechapel.

Went to Australia in 1884, returned in middle of 1885. Lived for short time in Whitechapel and Tottenham, and then came to Bow - where he has lived ever since.



Was first elected to a public office as a Guardian and served continuously for the same ward since 1892. Served 20 years on Borough Council - filled practically every office on local matters, including that of Mayor.

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Three years on London County Council: did not stand for re-election owing to excess of work. Member of Royal Commission on Poor Law. Gave evidence before Royal Commission on Aged Poor, and before Campbell-Bannerman's Committee on unemployed.

Helped to establish Central Unemployed Body: was Chairman of its working Colonies' Committee. Established Hollesley Bay; carried on public works at the Garden City, Osea Island and Farnbridge, Essex.

*Established at Ramsgate first Poor Law Colonies for unemployed workmen*  
Was in Parliament from December 19th 1910 - October 1912. Voluntarily resigned and lost seat.

Connected with Church Socialist League ever since its inception.

Member of the old Gas Workers' Union, now the National Union of General Workers, for thirty years. Trustee for major part of this time.

Sentenced to six months imprisonment in 1913 for speech delivered at the Albert Hall. Served three or four days of this owing to hunger strike - begun before going in to prison. Released under Cat and Mouse Act but never re-arrested.

Helped to found DAILY HERALD in 1912. Became Editor in 1913, continued through war as Editor of HERALD,

*only*



[say 1922]

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a weekly, which again became a daily, remaining under his editorship, on March 31st 1919. Resigned Editorship September 1922.

Member of the National Labour Party Executive Committee, and, at one time member of the National Administrative Council of the I.L.P.

Travelled pretty extensively - viz., Australia, America and Europe. On the outbreak of peace, visited Germany and attended Paris Conference. Interviewed at this Conference, Wilson, Lloyd George and the representative of Feussil. Visited Russia in 1920.

Publications: Your Part in Poverty; <sup>1916</sup> These Things Shall Be, <sup>1919</sup> What I saw in Russia, <sup>1920</sup> and some pamphlets and leaflets.



J. H. Banks 6 Campbell St<sup>d</sup>  
Row E (141)  
1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1922

Dear Mr Lansbury

It was with very deep regret  
that a great shock to us  
all, when we heard this  
evening that Minnie had  
passed away.

My wife joins with me  
in sending you our deepest  
sympathy in the very sad  
bereavement.

Words fail to express our  
feelings adequately, at the great  
loss. Edgar & you will have  
sustained

The movement has lost  
a valuable member, whose  
place it will be hard to fill

Yours truly

J. H. Banks



my 4 Jan. 1922

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# MINNIE LANSBURY

(MINNIE GLASSMAN)

Passed on *[Sunday]*  
New Year's Day, 1922

## THE NEW YEAR

A glad New Year to all—  
Since many a tear,  
Do what we can, must fall,  
The greater need to wish a glad New Year.  
Since lovely youth is brief,  
O girl and boy,  
And no one can escape a share of grief,  
I wish you joy.

Since hate is with us still,  
I wish men love ;  
I wish, since hovering hawks still strike to kill,  
The coming of the dove ;  
And since the ghouls of terror and despair  
Are still abroad,  
I wish the world once more within the care  
Of those who have seen God.

—Eleanor Farjeon

City of London Crematorium, Ilford,  
at 12, Jan. 4th, 1922

*The Poplar Training School Band will play suitable music  
and lead the singing*



*A PRAYER FOR PEACE*

**G**OD the All-terrible! King, who ordainest  
Great winds Thy clarions, lightnings Thy  
sword;

Show forth Thy pity on high where Thou reignest:  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord!

God the All-merciful! earth hath forsaken  
Thy ways of blessedness, slighted Thy word;  
Bid not Thy wrath in its terrors awaken:  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord!

God the All-pitiful! is it not crying—  
Blood of the guiltless, like water outpoured?  
Look on the anguish, the sorrow, the sighing:  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord!

God the All-wise! by the fire of Thy chastening,  
Earth shall to freedom and truth be restored;  
Through the thick darkness Thy kingdom is hastening:  
Thou wilt give peace in Thy time, O Lord!

So shall Thy children in thankful devotion  
Laud Him who saved them from peril abhorred,  
Singing in chorus from ocean to ocean,  
Peace to the nations and praise to the Lord.

*H. F. Chorley and J. Ellerton*

*HEAR A WORD*

**H**EAR a word, a word in season,  
For the day is drawing nigh,  
When the Cause shall call upon us,  
Some to live and some to die.  
He that dies shall not die lonely,  
Many a one hath gone before;  
He that lives shall bear no burden  
Heavier than the life they bore.

Nothing ancient is their story;  
E'en but yesterday they bled,  
Youngest they of earth's beloved,  
Last of all the valiant dead.  
Mourn not, therefore, nor lament it,  
That the world outlives their life;  
Voice and vision yet they give us,  
Making strong our hands for strife.

Some had name and fame and honour,  
Learned they were and wise and strong,  
Some were nameless, poor, unlettered,  
Weak in all but grief and wrong.  
Named and nameless all live in us;  
One and all they lead us yet,  
Every pain to count for nothing,  
Every sorrow to forget!

Harken how they cry, "O happy,  
Happy ye that ye were born  
In the sad slow night's departing,  
In the rising of the morn.  
Fair the crown the Cause hath for you,  
Well to die or well to live,  
Through the battle, through the tangle,  
Peace to gain, or peace to give."

*W. Morris*

*Rev. H. J. KILCAT, late Rector of Bow,  
will give a short address*



## THE RED FLAG

THE people's flag is deepest red;  
It shrouded oft' our martyred dead,  
And ere their limbs grew stiff or cold,  
Their hearts' blood dyed its ev'ry fold.

Then raise the scarlet standard high!  
Within its shade we'll live or die;  
Tho' cowards flinch and traitors sneer,  
We'll keep the red flag flying here.

Look round—the Frenchman loves its blaze;  
The sturdy German chants its praise;  
In Moscow's vaults its hymns are sung;  
Chicago swells the surging throng.

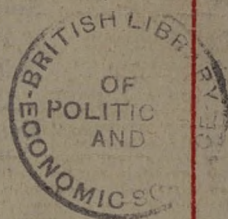
It waved above our infant might,  
When all ahead seemed dark as night;  
It witnessed many a deed and vow;—  
We must not change its colour now.

It well recalls the triumphs past;  
It gives the hope of peace at last:  
The banner bright, the symbol plain  
Of human right and human gain.

With heads uncovered swear we all  
To bear it onward till we fall.  
Come dungeon dark or gallows grim,  
This song shall be our parting hymn.

J. Connell

*The Interment will take place at the Jewish  
Cemetery, Marlow Road, East Ham,  
at 3 p.m.*





## DEATH OF ALDERMAN MINNIE LANSBURY.

On 1 Jan 1922  
aged 30 years

Cut off in the midst of her social and municipal activities, with only a few days warning, the tragic suddenness of Alderman Mrs Lansbury's death has made a profound impression on her many friends in Poplar. Since her marriage with Councillor Edgar Lansbury her influence in the affairs of the Borough has been steadily growing, and by consistent hard work Mrs Lansbury had earned the respect and esteem not only of her own political party, but also of many of her opponents. Deceased was a hard worker. She spared nether time nor energy in carrying out the duties which she voluntarily assumed. The result was that she had merged into the 32 years of her life, as much as some have done at twice her age. She was a daughter of Mr and Mrs Glase-man, of Golders Green; and before her marriage was a teacher at the Oban Street Schools, Poplar. It was in November 1919, when the Labour party came into power, that she was elected to the aldermanic bench, this being regarded as a reward for the work she had already put in on behalf of the Bow and Bromley Labour Party. She took a deep interest in the Maternity and Infant Welfare Committee, of which she was an active member. But the organisation with which her name will always be associated in the minds of thousands of East Londoners, was the Poplar War Pensions Committee. She had been a member of this committee since its formation and had taken infinite pains to master the intricacies woven by the ever-changing regulations. When the chairmanship was resigned by the late Rector of Bow, Rev. H. J. Kitcat, Mrs Lansbury was unanimously elected in his place, and we have the testimony of Mr Harry Gibbs, the secretary of the Committee, that she maintained her position, and carried out her duties in a manner which surprised everyone, her ready grasp of the difficulties which inevitably present themselves on such committees, being very remarkable.

Her last appearance of Alderman Mrs Lansbury in the Council Chamber was at a special meeting held on the 24th Dec. Soon after that she was attacked by influenza and this developed into pneumonia. Christmas was a sad time at Wellington Cottage, the pretty home of the Lansburys in Wellington Road, but on the last day of the old year there was a slight rally, and it was thought that she might pull through. On New Year's Day, however, there was a relapse and she passed away at a quarter to six on Sunday evening. The utmost sympathy is felt with the bereaved husband, it being well known that they were a devoted couple—never having out of each other's company. Sympathy is also felt for Mr and Mrs George Lansbury, who held the deceased in great affection, and with the parents of the deceased.

### THE FUNERAL.

The funeral on Wednesday was marked by impressive scenes. Wellington Road, Bow, was crowded with spectators for over an hour before the cortege left for Ilford. Many well known public men were amongst those who gathered outside the residence, including the Town Clerk (Mr J. B. Skegg), the Mayors of Stepney, Poplar and Bethnal Green, Alderman Tobin, and Councillors Sumner and Vaughan, Councillor A. Cohen, Ald. A. Brandy, Councillors Key, Partridge, Mrs Scurr, Mrs McKay, Dr Alexander, Alderman Miss Lawrence, Alderman J. Scurr, Mr Tom Hoare, Mr J. Bowden (Chief Electrical Engineer), Mr E. Borsley (Mace Bearer), Mr Harry Gibbs, Mr Duncan Carmichael. The majority of the crowd wore red poppies in their buttonholes or dresses, others wearing memorial badges of red with black centre.

Borne on the shoulders of four of the Poplar Councillors—Hubbart, Hagartry, Adams, and Blacketer—the shell containing the body was carried from the house, the procession forming up in Bow Road and being headed by some 500 of the local unemployed, marching under the banner of the London District Council of Unemployed Organisations.

Preceding the purple covered cremation shell was the Boys' Band from Shenfield, and immediately following it came the Mayors of Poplar, Stepney and Bethnal Green, the Poplar Aldermen and Councillors, members of the various trade union branches, members of the Women's Guild, a large detachment of ex-Service men, and several hundred unemployed from Bow and Bromley.

Moving slowly to the strains of the "Dead March" the cortege followed the road to Bow Bridge, relays of unemployed and ex-Service men carrying the coffin in turns.

### THE MOURNERS.

The mourners were as follows:—1st Coach, Mr E. Lansbury (widower), Mr G. Lansbury, Mr J. Glassman, Mr L. Glassman, Mr Meynell; 2nd Coach, Mrs G. Lansbury, Mrs Glassman, Mr and Mrs W. A. Lansbury; 3rd Coach, Misses Kate Glassman, Connie Lansbury, Beesie and Repea Haverson, Annie Lansbury, and Mr Hyman Glassman. 4th Coach, Mr Longman, Mrs. Coleman, "Lucy," Mrs F. Meynell; 5th Coach, Mr and Mrs A. Lazarus, Mrs M. Crapper, D. and L. Weinburg, and Mr Coutts; 6th Coach, S. Glassman, Janie Glassman, Messrs Barber, Ellenberg and Oulmon Glassman; 7th Coach, S. Green, Mrs Green, Mr Bembo, Mr Marcovitch, Mr A. Martell, Mr

D Martell. There were five other motor coaches.

Representatives of the Local War Pensions Committee, on which Mrs. Lansbury had served, also followed, and the Regional division was represented by Mrs Woods.

On arriving at Bow Bridge, where the borough boundary ends, the coffin was placed in the motor hearse, the whole of the unemployed falling out at the procession and lining the roadway.

### THE WREATHS.

One car conveyed nothing but floral tributes, which were far too numerous to be mentioned individually. Amongst those of a public character were wreaths from the Ward Committee and the Women's Section of the Bow and Bromley Labour Party, the National Executive of the Communist Party; the Organised Unemployed of Poplar and Bromley; the Women's Guild, Colleagues on the Poplar Borough Council, the Municipal Officers' Association; South Bromley Labour Party; the Poplar branch Communist Party; the Poplar Trades Council; the Staff of the Poplar War Pensions Committee; Poplar Board of Guardians Bow Working Men's Club, the Mayor and Mayoress of Poplar; Poplar Guardians Office Staff; the East London Labour Orchestra; the Poplar Branch of the N.U.R.; Dr and Mrs Harold Richmond; Mr J. B. Skeggs (Town Clerk) and Mrs Skeggs; Staff of Poplar Electricity Department; Alderman and Mrs J. Scurr; Members of the Poplar War Pensions Committee, Staff of the Anglo-Russian 3 Ply Wood Coy, Old Ford. The funeral arrangements were very efficiently carried out by the well known firm of C. Selby and Son, 14, Bow Road.

At the Crematorium of the City of London Cemetery, Ilford, a large number of those whose names has been mentioned had assembled. There being no music available in the little chapel, the two hymns were read with much feeling by the Rev. H. J. Kitcat. The first was, "God the All-terrible! who ordainest," and the second "Hear a word in season."

An address was then given by the late Rector of Bow, who said he regarded it a great privilege that he had been asked to say a few words on that occasion. They deeply deplored the loss of Mrs Minnie Lansbury. It was a great shock to him to hear of her death, and in the name of the mourners, as well as his own, he desired to offer his deep and very respectful sympathy to her husband, her sorrowing parents, and also to Mr. George Lansbury. Her loss was a very deep and personal one. It was his privilege to be associated with the deceased during the last five or six years. They were fellow members on the Poplar War Pensions Committee, and also on the Poplar Borough Council, and she also took a very deep interest in the Sailors Families Association, of which she was President at the time of her death. There were three qualities above all which impressed him in Mrs Minnie Lansbury. First her brilliant intellectual power, as displayed in her wonderful grasp of the merits and principles of a case, and her wonderful comprehension of the ever-changing regulations by which the Pensions Committee was governed. Secondly, her extraordinary liberal mind and generosity of disposition, which could appreciate the sincerity of others. She had the ability to recognise wholeheartedly the good points in those who might differ from her. Thirdly, there was her love of justice, and depth of her sympathy, for suffering and sorrow. Hers was a life of toil and labour in the relief of distress, and the uplifting of her fellow men. As chairman from the first of the local War Pensions Committee, a position in which Mrs Lansbury succeeded him, he could of his own personal knowledge bear witness to the fact that, often at the expense of her strength she laboured first to help the whole staff of the office in carrying out their duties, but above all to do all that could be done for the thousands of ex-Service men. She undoubtedly overtaxed her strength but they honoured her memory. In conclusion, he quoted the lines from one of Eleanor Farjeon's poems.—

"Since hate is with us still,  
I wish men love;  
I wish, since hovering hawks still  
strike to kill,  
The coming of the dove;  
And since the gnaws of terror and  
despair  
Are still abroad,  
I wish the world once more within  
the care  
Of those who have seen God."

At George Lansbury's request the Red Flag was sung. "None of us can speak to-day," he added.

Later in the afternoon the ashes were taken to the Jewish Cemetery in East Ham, and interred with Jewish rites.



See also vol. 28. a, fos. 127-155 for letters from

Charles Wm. Key  
(with enclosures)

28 June 1922

H. Hamilton Fyfe

31 July 1922



G.L.

39 Bow Road  
London  
E.3

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S

TELEPHONE  
East 3247

Mr. Wait Sewell,  
36, Kings Road,  
Leytonstone,  
E.....11.

10th August 1922.

My dear Wait:

The trouble about the Mayor is that a new one will be elected on November 9th, so that it is not quite certain who will be appointed.

In addition, we all go out of office on the 31st October, and of course, a number of us may not get back again, but if you can leave the matter over till the 1st November, I will most certainly do my level best to get both the Mayor and as many Councillors as possible to attend. That is about the best that can be done at the moment.

Love and best wishes,

*Hansbury*



# Why We Should Go Into The Wilderness

[29(?) March 1924]

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By GEORGE LANSBURY

ALL who are brought up as members of the Anglican or Roman Church understand the meaning of "Lent"—that season of the year which comes between Shrove Tuesday and Easter Sunday.

The rough and tumble of life gives to very few of us any opportunity for really private communion with ourselves, for even when we are alone and away from work our minds and bodies are almost always too tired for anything else but the kind of rest we associate with sleep. Yet for all of us there is the necessity for a spring cleansing of our minds by means of self-confession, preceded, as all confession must be, by a strict determination to be honest and true both to ourselves and our fellow citizens among whom we live.

The story of our Lord's sojourn in the wilderness is one which appeals to young and old, whether Christians or not; but especially does the story appeal to those who feel themselves weak and heavy-laden, or overwrought by the storm and stress of life. It is at all times good to know that during the long, long journey of man through this world, there has ever been comfort, solace, and strength to be found through communion with God and Nature.

The sojourn of Christ in the wilderness was for Him a time of communion with His Father and a gathering of strength to enable Him to go out again into the world and do the work His Father had set Him to do. At the end of the 40 days, when with body weakened and His mind tired because of that weakness, the temptation came; it was the power which He had gathered during those days and nights of solitude which enabled Him to triumph over every form of temptation which the forces of evil presented to Him.

## Time for Thought

We, who to-day find ourselves beset by many evils, will do well to try to get apart for even a little while in order that we also may gain strength and patience to persevere. I say this all the more because I am old.

For, as the years roll by, and responsibilities heap themselves upon me, time to think, time for self-examination, seems to become less and less available, whilst the need for rest and contemplation daily grows stronger. In the work of the House of Commons, and indeed in whatever work faces me outside, I find the need for more time to think becomes more imperative every day.

Were it not for the fact that I go long railway journeys at least once a week, no time of any worth would be available, but even the periods in the train tend to become as argumentative and full of discussion as the time spent elsewhere, because it is impossible to get away from friends.

When this is said, and we all admit how little time we have, it still seems to me necessary to say that every man and woman, and especially those who take part in public affairs, must in some way secure times for communion with self and God.

It is supposed to be very reasonable and in fact to be about religion and the Suffer

Mount. The self-styled bright, intelligent ones treat as lunatics and imbeciles those who are simple enough to think our Lord intended us to practise what He preached. To-day they would treat Him as a dangerous lunatic.

Yet everywhere the sign of the Cross is honoured. In every corner of this great city, churches, chapels, meeting-places are set up, within which men and women gather to say prayers and sing hymns in His praise. Are all who do these things conscious hypocrites? Of course not; their lives are too full either of work or pleasure; they have no time to really think.

## Choosing One's Path

All such need to go out into the wilderness and strive, as in a mirror, to see how ugly and mean life is, and at the same time understand what a blessed and glorious thing life might become. We who are in public life, and open to some extent to the blaze of publicity, especially need to get away and review our lives, particularly at those times when we are desirous of taking a stand for something impersonal on behalf of the common weal.

Speaking for myself, these last few weeks have been hours and days of trial and difficulty, and I am sure others besides me have felt the same. It is not easy at any time to justify oneself to one's friends, especially when taking a line which is distasteful to those friends. There is always a temptation to glory in being one alone and apart. All my life it has been my lot to find myself separated in action from some whose goodwill and respect has been of the utmost value and concern to me. Always though it has been my one concern to convince myself first of the rightness of the course to be followed and then to leave the rest to the good sense of all who come to judge me.

In the House of Commons, however, this is not at all an easy thing to accomplish. There are only two lobbies and all questions contain a great mixture of good and evil, and consequences are not always clear or certain. That is why separation from one's friends is always a matter of difficulty and is also surrounded by much heartburning, and at times reproaches. Of these latter, I have received none for any action I have taken, but I know some people think it an heroic thing to vote against one's Party. Others consider such action as one of treachery and disloyalty.

It is sometimes said we are people who want to discover means of getting ourselves talked about, and in any case are taking a very easy course, whereas those who, in face of their own conviction, remain loyal to the Party, are the men who show most courage and determination. I am no judge either way. My object is to ask all sides to make up their own minds and follow truth wherever it may lead them. As to "What is truth?"—this we must each decide for ourselves.

All we need plead for is that true light shall come into our lives and make us choose the path we

of us can rightly choose for another what is right or wrong. There is as much evil in courting popular applause as there is, for the sake of notoriety, striving to take the form or substance of martyrdom. Let there be no mistake about this. People like myself, who are often found in a minority, need every day to pray for that sort of guidance which will lead us right away from self and make us only think of what is impersonal and of benefit to others.

The same is true of all who are in positions of influence and power. They, too, must always be sure that the glamour of office, the possession of wealth and power, does not tempt them to smother conscience and chloroform themselves with the mendacious thought that all is for the best, when our own material present and future is secure.

Therefore, it is that at this Lenten season, at the risk of being misunderstood, I would ask that we all strive to get into the wilderness, separate and apart from our fellows, and try to understand ourselves. We will none of us be able literally to enter a wilderness. We are all able to do the next best thing—and even if only for a brief spell—get away from all the cares of life and strive to cleanse ourselves from the dross of selfishness and desire.

To-day, as in those days 2,000 years ago, the devil comes, takes us in thought to the top of a mountain, or to the highest pinnacle of the temple, bids us look out on the pomp and glory of the world, which, if we will only cease striving to follow truth, shall be ours. Other temptations in many guises come to us all. There is no escape except the old, old one of self-renunciation.

## Our Inspiration

I write as a sinner, one to whom temptations come daily, and as one also who has always found in the most bitter hour of defeat, or in the hour of greatest triumph, that the triumphs are but dust and ashes, and defeats all of no account if all the time the one solid remaining thought has been: "Well, after all is said and done, I have only tried to follow the light, small as it may be, which God or Nature has given me."

These 40 days of Lent typify for me man's struggle upward, because they tell the story of One who fought with Himself and won the fight we all must engage in; that struggle which determines whether in life we follow only selfishness or give ourselves to the service of our fellows. At the end of His journeyings and fastings, Christ wrestled with evil thoughts and evil desires, went back to the revolutionary task assigned Him, leaving to us an example and inspiration we all should strive to follow.

None of us, weak, frail and sinful as we are, can hope to overcome as He did, but all of us can strive to be true followers of Him Who said: "Let him who would be greatest be the servant of all."

[George Lansbury's article of last Saturday has been reprinted as a leaf



G.L. 5

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# THE DAILY HERALD

2 CARMELITE STREET  
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*Wait Chester*

Mr. W.C. Sewell,  
36, Kings Road,  
Leytonstone, E..11.

20. xi. 22.

Dear Mr. Sewell:

G.L. has sent your letter on to Mr. Scurr with a request that he should reply to you direct.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

*6 Campbell*



See also vol. 28.a, fos. 157-161

Electoral message of G.L. November 1922

Letter from Wifrid Meynell to G.L., 1 December 1922



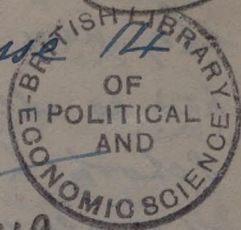
Horace W. Weston Hotel Zenit

Dec. 5th/22

IX Pelikangasse

Wien

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Dear Mr. Lansbury

M449

Since I have had a settled address in Austria, I have had an English newspaper forwarded to me daily, & so I have been able to follow a little more closely the events at home, & the results of the General Election.

I was very glad to see that you had won your old constituency, & I should like if I may to offer you my very sincere hearty congratulations.

The Liberal Party has certainly crumpled up. When that party was in opposition, it was never very effective, & when in power, owing to the pressure of social influences, pressure, too, from probably high sources, & to a large & dominating Whig element, it whittled down all its schemes until they were practically worthless. There is, however, to-day a powerful, forceful, & what I believe will be a very effective opposition in the Labour Party.

Such opposition will be much needed long before the life of the present Parliament expires.

There is every evidence that the Labour Party will be well & wisely led, & I hope that at the next Election the Party will have a majority. England is naturally Conservative & steeped in tradition so far as its public life is concerned, so that the accession to power of the Labour Party would indeed be a great want.



It is over 7 months since I left the schools & they have been in my thoughts every day since. I had no idea until I left what a large part the schools had in my life. I am feeling better, but I still sleep badly & sleepless nights are a severe trial.

We spent 5 months in the Tyrol & in the Salzammergut, & it was all very fine. We have been for two & a half months in Vienna, where my daughters are enrolled as students of the University. I expect we shall move on in the spring & after a short visit to Buda-Pesth. I hope to spend three or four months in Germany & to learn something of the conditions that prevail there. What a misconception there is in England as to the cost of living here. I have here found it cheap. Within a few weeks of my arrival, prices of all commodities rose over 1000 per cent. Food is a little cheaper than in England, but even at the present rate of exchange clothes are much dearer. It is impossible to get private rooms & hotel expenses are almost extortionate. At any rate they make living far from cheap. Still it has been a good time & a very valuable experience I hope for my daughters.

This time last year the shops in Vienna were almost empty & many of the people were starving. Today the shops are well stocked, & notwithstanding high fares the trams & trains are always crowded. A stranger coming to Vienna & knowing nothing of the conditions might easily

imagine that all was well. Yet Austria is a land of tragedies. When I was in Gmunden I met a lady who had been in service in England for many years. She saved a good deal of money & in 1912 she returned to her friends in Austria & put her savings into an Austrian bank. She added a little to them & was just thinking of going up work as she is getting on in years. Her savings were considerable & would have kept her in comparative comfort. To-day they are not worth sixpence & there are many thousands who had saved up for a rainy day or for their old age & now see nothing before them but starvation or the Poor House. I have just had a most striking illustration of the depreciation of the currency. A few days ago I was in the Natural History Museum & saw a large nugget of gold from Austria. A ticket indicated its weight & its value in Kronen. That ticket had not been changed since 1914. The value of the Kronen as then stated would in English money have provided an income of £500 to £600 per annum in perpetuity. To-day the same number of Kronen would not meet my daily expenditure, & would not provide food for an individual for a single week. The wages of the state workers & of those who are organized, are regulated according to the index figure of the cost of living, but the condition of the unorganized & of the professional classes is appalling. I have heard of professors who last winter died of starvation in their comparatively well-furnished

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flats. The winters here are long & severe, & with high prices, the condition of the unemployed with all the women & children involved, is unthinkable.

The ghastly tragedy is already beginning to reveal itself. Perhaps the worst tragedy of all is the dreadful havoc that has been wrought among the children by tuberculosis, & it has been owing entirely to want of nourishment. There are thousands of adults, too, whose ill-nourished bodies have fallen an easy victim to this very terrible scourge.

I fear that the arrangements for a loan to Austria & the appointment of a Commissioner, are only a temporary makeshift. Austria lost so much by the treaty: fertile districts in the South - industrial districts in the North, Hungary with its corn growing plains in the East, & she was left with a mountainous Country, & a great city with all the administrative effects of a great Empire to support. Austria will never stand alone.

There will have to be a revision of the treaty, & some form of Co-operation with some of the other States of Central Europe. I am afraid I have written much too long a letter for a busy man to read.

but one thing I should like to tell you in conclusion

The Arsenal, here, corresponding somewhat to our Woolwich Arsenal, is now known as the Arsenal of the Peace. I have been introduced to the Chief Director of the wood-work & joinery department & between us there has sprung up something of a friendship. On a recent visit I saw a hundred thousand ploughs & a similar number of cultivators



5 Decy 1922. West<sup>on</sup> Russia. They were all  
ready for transport to Russia. They were all  
made of what was, or what would have been  
war material. It was a veritable beating of  
swords into ploughshares. I have been greatly  
interested in my visits to this place. The work  
is carried on under really ideal conditions. The  
workers share largely in the management & provisions  
are made for educational works & for the social  
welfare of the workers, their wives & children. (150)

There is so much more that I should like to  
tell you, but I have disagreed on your time too  
much already. Will you remember me very kindly to  
Mr. Lambury & to the members of your family  
& give to them all my very best wishes for the  
coming Christmas season.

I am  
Yours very sincerely  
Horace W. Weston

G. Lambury Esq



Oswald Garrison Villard  
(of U.S.A. 1872-1949)

The Nation

20 Vesey Street  
New York

December 12th, 1922.

151

My dear George Lansbury:

A lot of your friends here, some of whom you know and many whom you do not, threw up their hats in joy when the news came by cable that you had been re-elected to the House. We rejoice for and with you, but we rejoice still more for England that you and your group have come back so marvelously and that you have so stunning a parliamentary leader as Ramsay MacDonald.

With most cordial regards,

Faithfully yours,

Oswald Garrison Villard

Mr. George Lansbury,  
House of Parliament,  
London, England.



Joseph Bentley

(152)

6 Grantham Terrace,  
Horton,  
Bradford, 22-12-22.

Dear Friend:

As Christmas closes in upon us I "looks towards you", and then I look up and offer thanks that you have been kept until another Christmas. Making every allowance for the difficulties of the present time, I trust that your Yuletide may be full of joy, and that in the New Year, shortly to dawn, health, strength, grace and determination may be vouched you by our Lord and Saviour, so that you may yet do valiant deeds for the

(153)

down-trodden and oppressed.

Be assured that hundreds are all the while, metaphorically, "holding up your arms."

To your wife, whom I do not know, my respects for your sake. I feel sure that, like my own wife, she has made an infinity of sacrifices to set her husband free for public service; and I would regard her, as sharer, with you, in the best wishes that one heart can wish for others. These I offer you as a Christmas greeting, and remain

Your sincere friend,  
Jos. Bentley

Mr. Geo. Lausbury, M.P.



Agnes Maude Royden  
(1576) 22.12.22

TELEPHONE,

HAMPSTEAD 5016.

154

16, ROSSLYN HILL,  
HAMPSTEAD,  
N.W. 3.

With very good wishes, from  
A. Maude Royden.

Christmas 1922.



M449



35 Giberon St  
Lincoln 15  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1922

Dear Comrades Charles Besson

We all wish you a very very  
Happy Christmas and the  
happiest New Year you have ever  
had. It is rather late to offer  
you congratulations, however we  
are delighted you succeeded in  
gaining a seat in Parliament.  
We follow all the news in the  
Herald closely I have just read  
your Christmas article and I  
wish every one had the same  
heart as yourself there would  
be far more happiness in the  
world than there is to-day.  
However we try to do our share  
we shall have achieved some  
benefit for our children in the  
future if not at the present time.  
We had some great meetings  
during the Municipal and



Parliamentary Elections. We were  
unfortunate in not returning  
our candidate but very  
fortunate in gaining the  
confidence of such a number  
of people who voted Labour.  
When we look back a few  
short years and think of  
the 200 votes which was  
all we could muster and  
again to day our 10,000.  
we realise after all Labour  
is gaining in Lincoln and  
we shall return a member  
in the near future if we  
still keep on fighting. There  
has never been such meetings  
in Lincoln before as we  
had during the Parliamentary  
election, and we are perfectly  
certain if it had been a  
covered contest Labour

would have won the poll  
easily. However we have a  
little compensation in the  
fact we have at least  
got six Labour men on  
our Local Council and there  
will not be much peace  
for some of the very ancient  
members of that body. We  
have gained three seats  
and two were returned.  
We have been very busy  
organising all the different  
wards and now we have  
got such a number of people  
interested we must keep on  
organising until we can  
return our own man.  
In the past the Lincoln  
people have been too apathetic  
they have only known there  
has been a Labour Party



really a occasion comes  
but it does not pay. (156)

We are delighted such a  
number of splendid men  
have been returned we  
know you have a strenuous  
time ahead but perseverance  
always wins doesn't it and  
we wish you the greatest  
success in all your  
undertakings. My kiddies  
send all their love to you  
all they just love Bobby  
& his tricks. I wonder if  
you could find a corner in  
your diary for us for  
May day how delightful it  
would be if you could.

Love and best wishes  
to all, yours sincerely

Elizabeth & Charles  
Besson



Benjamin W. Huebsch  
(of U.S.A.: see Who's who in America, 1922-3)

(157)



Engr. Dec.  
1922

Saint Christopher and the infant Jesus

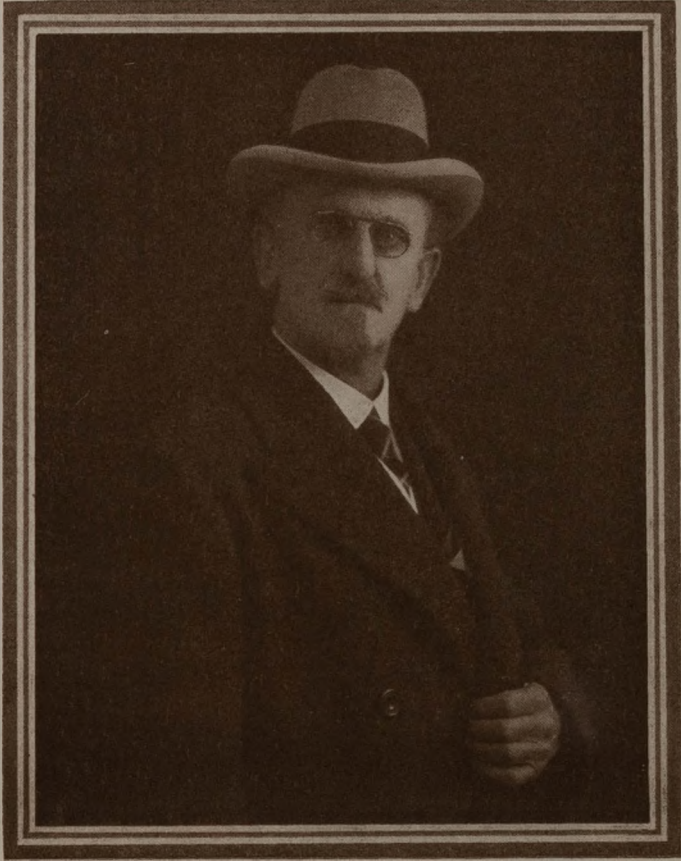
(One of the earliest examples of wood-engraving—1423)

GREETINGS FROM ALFHILD, ERIK AND B. W. HUEBSCH

Christmas, 1922 — New Year, 1923



159

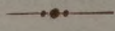




158  
F.S.

To West Germany, with love & regards  
[same Dec. 1922]

MOTTO FOR 1923. "BE PREPARED."



To Commemorate  
our great contest for Humanity  
in  
WEST BIRMINGHAM, NOV., 1922  
and  
to wish you and yours

**A Merry 'Xmas**

AND

**A Happy New Year.**

From  
Your Comrade,

Frank Smith

Dec. 1922.



*"What is man born for but to be a Reformer, a Re-maker of what man has made; a renouncer of lies; a restorer of truth and good?"*

EMERSON.

## TO LABOUR.

---

Shall you complain who feed the world?  
Who clothe the world?  
Who house the world?  
Shall you complain who are the world  
Of what the world may do?  
If from this hour  
You use your power,  
The world must follow you!

The world's life hangs on your right hand!  
Your strong right hand,  
Your skilled right hand,  
You hold the whole world in your hand,  
See to it what you do!  
Or dark or light,  
Or wrong or right,  
The world is made by you.

Then rise as you never rose before!  
Nor hoped before!  
Nor dared before!  
And show as was never shown before  
The power that lies in you!  
Stand all as one!  
See justice done!  
Believe, and Dare, and Do!

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN.



Shapurji Saklatwala

(160)

[? his hand or hers: cf.]  
29 May 1930

TELEPHONE:  
HORNSEY 1444.

2 ST. ALBANS VILLAS,

HIGHGATE ROAD,

LONDON, N.W. 5.

Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> 1922

Mr & Mrs S. Saklatwala thank Mr & Mrs  
George Lansbury for their kind  
Xmas greetings and good wishes,  
which they heartily reciprocate.

end of 1922



Vol. 8

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(fols. 161 - 177)

1923



TELEGRAMS:

JINARAJADASA  
ADYAR  
MADRAS

C. Jinarājadasa

(161)  
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
ADYAR, MADRAS,  
INDIA.

January 25, 1923.

Dear Brother, *George,*

This is to thank you from us both and your wife for your greetings for the New Year. Needless to say, my wife and I are heartily glad of the opportunity that you have ~~had~~ to play a larger rôle and to be of greater service. Times are getting difficult nationally and internationally everywhere, and we feel glad that one with your spirit of good-will and charity has an opportunity of expressing himself, though often it is like speaking against the wind! *We shall be in England at the end of May.*

With affectionate greetings,

Yours sincerely,

*C. Jinarājadasa*



The Best-Loved Member of  
the House

Some of the Tories are still, I suppose, rather "sniffy" towards "G. L.," but the ordinary human M.P. says he respects him — and really loves him. The Pressmen of the Lobby were his comrades from the first day of the new Parliament. A mortal of a slower responsiveness behaves like the traveller in the fable; the cloak which the storm could not tear from his back he throws off sooner or later in the genial warmth of the Lansbury sunshine.



George Lansbury  
M.P. for Bow and  
Bromley.

(Photo, Scott, Bradford).

Not that the member for Bow and Bromley does not sometimes storm with the loudest. That is in the Chamber itself, and the watchers know that, however relentless his denunciation, whatever his lapses from Parliamentary decorum, his wrath is always righteous. The wrongs he resents are those done to the poor, to the unemployed, to anybody but himself. These are not storms in a tea-cup; they are storms of the universe.

He is ready to be everyone's brother. Whether he speaks in a church (for he is a faithful Anglican) or on the plinth of Nelson's Column, or in the House of Commons—and on whatever subject—the gist of his utterance is a plain deduction (even when he does say so) from the first six words of the Lord's Prayer. That is why our most august institutions do not move him to any excessive veneration. To him the Three Estates of the Realm are small objects afloat on the universal stream, and the King's Speech is less important than the cry of a hungry child.

Nevertheless, another M.P. said to me: "George Lansbury is our greatest Parliamentarian." I do not say so; superlatives are dangerous. And yet—?

Some of his greatest acts on the Westminster stage have certainly been un-Parliamentary. One night in June, 1912, he strode across the floor of the House to shout to Premier Asquith that he ought to be ashamed of himself. Suspension for the remainder of the sitting was, of course, the immediate consequence to the Member for Bow and Bromley.

Disagreeing even with his Party on matters connected with the suffrage, he soon afterwards resigned his seat, offered himself for re-election, and did not get it.

Thus ended Mr. Lansbury's first two years in Parliament, and as 1918 merely added to the already long series of his defeats, he did not come back till last November. But there were plenty of other places to be a brother in. Pentonville Prison, for one. An Albert Hall speech on the suffrage landed him there in 1913. He hunger-struck and was soon let out. It was, I suppose, for very shame that the Home Office never sent him back to finish his sentence.

He says he has been an agitator from his birth. That happened in 1859 in Suffolk, whither a railway contract took his Warwickshire father and Welsh mother, but since his tenth year all his life (excepting a period as an emigrant, with his wife and young family, in Queensland) has been spent in East London. There he built up his business as a timber merchant.

Portsmouth has given him every local office—Guardian, Borough Councillor, Mayor and County Councillor. He was the founder of the first (and still existent) Poor Law Labour Colony at Laindon, Essex, and founder of the Hollesley Bay Colony and the Children's Home of the Poplar Guardians at Shenfield, Essex. He signed the Webbs' Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission in 1905. He remembers his 1921 imprisonment when he was a Councillor.



Charles Wm. & Florence Key



POST OFFICE

TELEGRAPHS.

21 Feb. 1923

163

Office Stamp.



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Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Whitechapel

Charges } s. d.  
to pay }

Handed }  
in at }

1038

.M.,

Received }  
here at }

25 .M.

TO } George Lansbury  
House of Commons

Best wishes for continued health  
and happiness may many future  
anniversaries give us opportunities to  
express our love and admiration  
for you and your work  
Flourie and Charlie Key -



POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS.

164

Office Stamp.

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

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Linehouse East

Charges } s. d.  
to pay }

Handed }  
in at }

11.5/4

.M.,

Received }  
here at }

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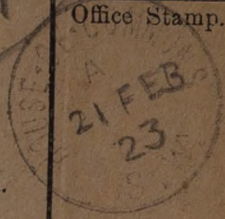
.M.

TO {

George Lansbury MP.  
use of pleons LW

many happy returns keep the  
fight's going yours in the  
struggle

Stepney organized unemployed





POST OFFICE



TELEGRAPHS.

165

21 Feb. 1923

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Office Stamp.



Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Whitehall a

Charges } s. d.  
to pay }

Handed }  
in at }

6:4p .M.,

Received }  
here at }

6:14p .M.

TO {

George Lansbury  
House of Commons

birthday greetings fraternal  
good wishes

Frank Summers





as from  
Andrew Bonar Law  
(1858-1923)

from  
Sir (Robert) Patrick (Malcolm) Gower  
(1887-)

(166)

19, DOWNING STREET,  
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

23rd May, 1923.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Bonar Law is very sorry that his health does not permit him to write to you personally to thank you for your kind message of sympathy and good wishes. He has read it with great pleasure and has asked me to convey his warm thanks and appreciation.

Yours truly,

R. P. Gower.

George Lansbury Esq., M.P.

See vol. 17, fos. 270 a-c for letters of Mrs Manley Power dated [29 March, 15 April and 13 June 1923]



## OUR BRITISH FASCISTI

### Miniature Mussolinis In Our Own Country

By **GEORGE LANSBURY**

Many people in this country think it is certain that once the British Labour movement succeeds in obtaining a majority in the House of Commons, the present governing classes will at once organise and arm themselves for the purpose of frustrating laws dealing with trade and industry, which will be passed by a Labour House of Commons.

There is, in my opinion, little likelihood of such open and unashamed methods being adopted. The British governing classes are much too clever to show their opposition so openly. They reach their ends by more artful and cunning methods.

The British "Fascisti," when we come to power, will not man the barricades or face cannon, but will find "another way round." Already these gentry are at work striving by might and main to first of all divide and then conquer the working classes.

For years past in London the Labour movement has had to face the united opposition of all those who make money out of vested interests. Contractors, in the sacred name of purity in public life, captured the London County Council, and, without a moment's hesitation, abolished the works department, distributing municipal work by means of contracts between themselves and their friends. Of course, the contracts do not go to individual members, but they could go, and do go, to limited liability companies, in which numbers of these persons and their friends are shareholders.

#### Slanderers of Labour

These sort of persons, organised in Municipal Reform parties and other mugwump associations, never tire of inculcating their half truths and slanders about Labour councillors and their work. To-day they are carrying their attacks much further, and showing us the kind of line they intend to take once our people are secure in power.

The one question which has brought matters to a head in London is the payment of a minimum wage to work-people. Two years ago many Labour Boroughs established a £4 a week minimum wage, and also decided that equal wages should be paid to all adult men and women for equal work. Where Labour is in power and this minimum now operates, the electors last November supported and entirely approved this policy.

Especially was this the case at Poplar where 36 Labour men and women were returned by big majorities against the so-called Municipal Reformers; in

dition, at four bye-elections, Labour victories were secured by heavy majorities, one seat being uncontested.

Consequently John Scurr and his fellow Aldermen and Councillors continued Labour's policy of paying a minimum wage of £4 and equal pay for men and women. It is here that Poplar's very own middle-class "Fascisti" come in. A regular campaign has been waged in the local Press against Labour; deputations and letters have been sent to the Minister of Health—all without effect. The chief of our British "Fascisti" organisations outside the Borough has also got going, and by threats of what they will do are endeavouring to compel the Government auditor to surcharge the Poplar Councillors and Aldermen for the heinous crime of enforcing a policy the ratepayers elected them to carry out. This organisation, in effect, says to the Auditor: "Unless you do what we tell you, we will take you to court for failing to do your duty."

Last Thursday, in reply to a summons from the Auditor, the Mayor, Councillors and Aldermen attended a meeting in the Council Chamber, over which the Auditor presided, in order, as this gentleman said, to show cause why they should not be surcharged for carrying out a policy they had been elected to enforce.

I have not room to enter fully into the case except to say that John Scurr, Charles W. Key, Susan Lawrence and Charles Sumner all showed conclusively, first, that for nearly 20 years Labour in Poplar had forced the Council, even when bossed by reactionaries, to pay at least 25 per cent. more wages than was paid elsewhere; that in the case of health visitors and sanitary officers the Minister of Health had

agreed to equal wages for men and women; that in the Municipal electricity works, with its £4 minimum and equal pay for men and women, cheaper electricity is produced than anywhere else in London, and at the same time a profit for the ratepayers is earned. The infant death-rate in the borough had been reduced 30 per cent. and the general health of the whole district improved. A lot more facts of a similar kind were also submitted.

The principle at stake in this dispute is the right of Labour when in power on local authorities to carry out its own policy. The £4 a week minimum is not in question at all, although the reptile Press and our "Fascisti" will do their best to make it so. The one and only question to be decided when the matter goes to the courts, if ever it does, is quite simple—shall the ratepayers be allowed to dictate the policy as to how their money shall be spent? The auditor claims that he has the deciding voice; that he is the judge whether a council shall pay more or less money to its servants.

Nobody ever dreamed that such power is given by any Act of Parliament to any auditor, and, in fact, no such power is given. The auditor relies on one thing and one thing alone. Did the borough councillors and aldermen wisely and reasonably use their discretion? The Poplar ratepayers and electors say they did; the auditor, if he surcharges, say they did not.

#### Developments Soon

There, for the moment, the matter rests. Developments will likely take place in a few days. The British "Fascisti" have got first blood by threatening the auditor what they will do with him unless he does as they command. The local movement is once again getting on its harness, and all the elements of a great social upheaval are being whipped up.

I ask our friends not to be alarmed, but to stand up to our enemies boldly by emphatically ranging themselves behind all the London councils who are attacked, and together defend the principle that a local authority duly elected has as much right to pay its servants a living wage as has a reactionary council the right to sweat its workers, especially when the policy pursued has received the overwhelming support of the electors.

#### Our Portrait Gallery

### Labour Men in Parliament

#### A Muscular Christian

Energy and determination are the qualities which immediately impress anyone who meets Mr. R. J. Wilson, M.P. for Jarrow; and his standing in Co-operative Trade Union movements, as administrator,





Mrs. Joseph Fels

**BIBBY LINE**  
ESTD 1821

168

S.S. OXFORDSHIRE.

Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> — 1923.

Dear George & Bessie, —  
I am on  
my way back to Eng-  
land, where I should ar-  
rive on the evening of  
the 16<sup>th</sup>. I wished you  
to know soon as possible,  
to ensure our getting to-  
gether soon as possible.  
I want so much to see  
you again, to see much  
of you. It is wicked the



may we have not been  
together these later years.  
I long for the way it  
used to be, the good,  
good, helpful way. Do  
you: I think you do.  
So lovingly yours,  
Mary Tels.

I shall be at 14 Bucking-  
ham St. Strand all the  
time, while Walter and  
Eleanor are away, and all  
the week days throughout  
Sept. Do let us arrange  
for a time at Southernwood  
together.



Will Thorne  
(1857—1946)

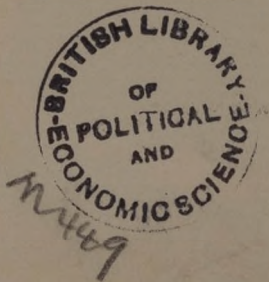
170

1, LAWRENCE ROAD,  
UPTON PARK, LONDON, E.

23rd October, 1923.

Mr. Will Thorne desires to express to you his sincere thanks for your message of sympathy in his bereavement.

It has been a great comfort to him, and members of the family, to receive such kind words from so many friends.





Code.

# THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY (LIMITED),

Date. Delivery Nr.  
(To be quoted in all enquiries.)

*KlisKKo* of Denmark.

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*171*

ODESSA YM60 10W 20 16 40 =

LANDSBURY DAILY HERALD LDN =

HEARTY CONGRATULATION BEST WISHES SUCCESS =

KLISKKO ☒

In fractional numbers the Integer is separated from the fraction by a double dash, for instance: 1½ is rendered as 1 = 3/4

Please mark replies "Via NORTHERN." Book of Forms supplied free on application from the Co.'s London Office, 5, St. Helen's Place, E.C. 3.



Cosmo Gordon Lang

23 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1923

**BISHOPTHORPE,  
YORK.**

172

Many thanks for your kind remembrance. I send all truest wishes for Christmas tide, and my blessing for the New Year.

Cosmo G. Lang





POST CARD

ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE.



Gene Lumborgy Skid  
35 Bow Road  
London



M449

E. B.



Rt. Rev. Charles Gore 6 Margaret St <sup>(173)</sup>  
(1853-1932)

Thank you indeed. W. ~~W.~~  
1.  
24 Dec. 1923

With every good wish & prayer

for you & yours & the

Labour Government to

be

Charles Gore



POST CARD



Seay Saubery Esq  
R.P.



39 Bow Road  
London

E. 3

M449



I like your plan  
Tracy Christian - thank  
you for that of these  
Sermon's in Salina  
I would like to see  
the one in it should be  
the one as the first  
lesson of all things  
on which was morning  
God keeps the day  
the morning year of  
the morning year of

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Wm W  
Bartholomew



Geo Lausbury M.P.  
Wife

Row Road  
F



M449



“Roadside House”  
Edward Webster of the New 175  
~~Straddledown~~  
Herts

Christmas 1923  
[say 24 Dec.]

Let's treat the sundering  
miles

With smiles,  
And laugh at the years

For love remains true,  
My dear,

All through  
And God, for the rest,  
Knows best

So I think of you, Stewart  
fighter & friend of the people  
& my friend of the years. It  
is not an orthodox I know word  
or feeling, but it is so sincere  
(more personal) than many that are



Telephone: Gerrard 2181.

Smith  
(1854-1940)

174

14 Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

Dec: 24<sup>h</sup>-23

My Dear George

Thanks so much for sending  
me your note - I know how rushed  
you have been, & must be -

These are indeed great &  
glorious times to be alive in - I am  
sorry I cannot join you in



The great opportunities that offer.  
However - we did our best - It was  
a great fight - we would it had  
ended otherwise - still we are  
not down hearted.

With best of love to you all

Ever yours

Elizabeth & Frank

Mr. C. H. Mansby M.P.  
Bourne



M449



